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THURSDAY, MAY 1ST, 2014

In Business Update
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Van About Town

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RAINBOW RUN RAISES FUNDS FOR TY HAFAN



ABOVE: A Rainbow Run with more than 1,000 participants at Coney Beach, Porthcawl, who were showered in pink, orange, blue and pink powdered paint, took place to raise funds for the children's charity Ty Hafan. The event took place on Sunday, April 27, and local photographer Malcolm Nugent captured all the fun of the day.
(FOR A REPORT AND MORE IMAGES, TURN TO PAGE 4).

Planit

**Events
THIS WEEKEND**

The Great Barn, Rosedew Farm,
Beach Road, Llantwit Major, CF61 1PZ

May 3, 2014 6.30-9.30pm

Health & Beauty Event

Admission £3 with arrival drink,
unlimited water and herbal teas

£7 Taster sessions include:

Threading
Facials
Massage
Manicures
Hair Tutorials
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Massage
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Health Products
Local Gifts

May 4, 2014 11am-3pm

Wedding Fayre

- Gorgeous and unique venue
- Local suppliers
- Bespoke packages
- Exclusive venue rates
- Free entry
- Complimentary arrival drink



Porthcawl man (30) jailed for 'grooming' two 15-year-olds

by AJ SICLUNA

A PAEDOPHILE who had repeatedly breached a court order banning him from having contact with children under 16, has been jailed for 20 months at Cardiff Crown Court.

Christopher Davies, 30, was said to have taken a boy and a girl, both aged 15, to his home in Lake View Close, Porthcawl, where he "groomed them".

Judge Huw Davies QC said: "A man of 30 does not strike up friendships with 15-year-olds and invite them to his flat for an innocent reason. He was grooming them."

Davies pleaded guilty to two charges of breaching a sexual offences prevention order.

It was made in January 2011 when he was sentenced to three years and four months for 17 offences - including rape, committing a serious sexual offence, indecent assault and

committing acts of gross indecency involving boys and girls.

Prosecutor David Pinnell said the order banned him from having custody, care or contact with any child under 16 unless supervised by social services.

In the current case, said Mr Pinnell, the boy's mother was told he had met a "new friend" in Porthcawl public library.

She was unaware of Davies' background.

Sometime after, continued Mr Pinnell, the boy ran away from home.

The police made enquiries and interviewed the boy, who confirmed that he had been to Davies' flat with a girl on six occasions, when they had played computer games and sometimes had shared a cannabis joint.

The boy, said Mr Pinnell, was always accompanied by the girl, and never alone.

Davies denied to the police supplying them with cannabis and claimed the children had brought the drug along themselves.

He also said there was no ulterior motive in associating with them.

At this point, the Judge said: "The use of cannabis was a sinister element, and he was in the early stages of a grooming process."

Davies' solicitor, Rhodri Chudleigh, said: "He acknowledges it has to be immediate custody."

The Judge said that Davies had struck up friendships in "stark contravention" of the sexual offences prevention order.

And, he said, what occurred horrified the parents of the children.

Said the Judge: "You are in denial still of the circumstances of the offences."

He was disqualified from working with children for life, and the original order is to last indefinitely.

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Porthcawl folk out to have fun ...but also to support worthy cause

IMAGINE the shock of being told you have a life-threatening condition: your world turns upside down as you start to try and cope with the implications for you and your family.

You need information: what is the treatment? How will it affect me? How do I cope? How will it affect my job, my future? How do I take holidays? Is there a cure? What's the best treatment?

The questions tumble through the brain as you scan the internet for answers.

If you are lucky, you find a local support group who can help answer all of your questions, share your fears and anxiety – and return a sense of fun and confidence back into your life.

Sunday was the day for such support groups to put the fun into fundraising and bring together families, friends and supporters in activity to collect the much-needed cash for research and support.

Porthcawl was full of people having fun, spending time with friends and family and raising money for great causes.

The morning dark sky did not bode well for the Porthcawl Kidney group's annual Walk for Life round trip walk between the Hi-Tide Inn and Rest Bay.

The group has raised thousands of pounds for kidney research and provided equipment for the kidney dialysis unit at Morriston hospital.

Most recently, it provided iPads for patients undergoing dialysis treatment. The hours of boredom and frustration of dialysis treatment being alleviated by the opportunity to play games, search the web and email friends and family.

If you are interested in joining the Porthcawl Kidney support group, ring 02920343940.

Kidney disease affects 10,000 people in Wales every year. Dialysis can be used to support a patient while waiting for a kidney transplant. A

**Get inspired,
get immersed,
get involved
this spring!**

THESE challenging words were used recently by AgeCymru to encourage those aged over 50 to explore their creative side as part of their annual Gwanwyn festival.

This month-long festival, now in its eighth year, celebrates renewal, growth and creativity in older age ('Gwanwyn' means springtime in Welsh).

A selection of events was listed that take place throughout May.

While some of the activities take place in north Wales, it appears Parkour Dance are leading the discovery of Cardiff Bay as an urban playground with dance sessions at the Wales Millennium Centre and the Sherman theatre.

Porthcawl U3A offers by contrast 'renewal, growth and creativity' throughout the year using its network of interest groups that meet weekly throughout our town of Porthcawl.

While this festival is admirably arranged once a year in the spring, Porthcawl U3A offers the public activities

throughout the year through its many interest groups.

While U3A also used to specifically encourage 50-plus age group, the organisation has now been pleased to widen its appeal by encouraging anyone no longer in full time employment to share common interests as long as they have a desire to learn for its own sake.

There is no age barrier and no qualifications are required.

Excellent monthly talks are held at the Hi Tide and groups range from photography and art to philosophy and food in Britain. We feature a flourishing gardening group and have arranged visits to Malvern and Cardiff Flower Shows.

We attend concerts in Cardiff and visit stately homes, the last visit being Llanelli House, successful subject of the BBC Renovation programme.

Membership is still open, so anyone wishing further information should call 01656 783663, or visit our porthcawl.u3a.co.uk website.

CLIVE MORT

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON is writing an exclusive report from Westminster for The GEM.



transplant can cost £20,000 to carry out and £5,000 a year in medication to sustain but dialysis will cost £175,000 over five years.

The big difference is the quality of life of the person with the transplant against that of the person on dialysis.

In Westminster, I support the local volunteers as co-chair of the All-Party Kidney group. Research and medical experts advise the group of new developments, problems and areas where the support of parliamentarians is needed.

Patients and family attend the group to give input on the personal impact of treatment and services. We also meet with ministers to push for the changes needed.

While the Kidney group walked the prom down on Coney beach, there was a very colourful fun run in support of Ty Hafan. Over 1,300 people, some dressed in bizarre costumes, undertook the 5K rainbow run along the beach.

As they reached the end of each section of the run, participants were covered in powder paint. Bridge FM played out over the beach, as rainbow coloured participants ended their runs and made their way to the cleaning station, many posed for photographs with friends and family.

The atmosphere was great and no one noticed the heavy clouds overhead.

I was happy to join the Kidney walk, but must admit I watched the paint-splattered runners on the beach from the side lines!

My final event of the day was the south west Wales branch of the Motor Neurone Disease

Association. To reach the meeting, I had to head west to Port Talbot to the 12 Knights, to join a fun quiz. I have recently agreed to become a Patron of the MND south and west Wales branch and will this year take the Chair of MND All-Party group in the Commons.

The branch offers support to those who have Motor Neurone Disease, their friends and families.

I was most impressed by the number of people at the quiz who were there to support someone with this most cruel disease.

I moved between the tables as groups completed the quiz and even helped two groups identify Carwyn Jones AM in the 'identify the Jones in the pictures' part of the quiz.

If you would like more information on MND and the local branch, go to <http://www.mndassociation.org/getting-support/local-support/branches/Wales/south-west-wales-branch-300412>.

Also at the meeting was Justin Hostettler Davies, from Broadlands, who last year walked the Welsh coastal footpath raising £14,000 for MND.

This year, he plans to cycle from Lands End to John O'Groats for the same cause. In a moment of madness I agreed to join Justin for a small (and I do emphasise small) part of the ride as it goes through Monmouthshire.

Every time I see Justin, I remind myself of that promise and remember how little time I have spent on my bike training for this commitment.

This was just one Sunday. Yet it was a day where many people were taking time to support those having to cope with drastic devastating changes to their lives.

It makes me proud to see how willing people are to give of their time, effort and money to support good causes. Well done everyone.

I have to end by apologising to all of the Scouts who attended the St George's Day church service in Hope Chapel, Bridgend on Sunday. I am sorry I was not able to attend the service and meet and talk to cubs, scouts and leaders.

This is an event I enjoy but sadly too many events in one day made it impossible.

Local eco organisation backs 'Swansea lagoon'

THE director of one of Wales' leading environmental organisations, Sustainable Wales, is backing the proposed Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon.

Margaret Minihinnick, director of Sustainable Wales says that the project will have a key role to play in generating the promised 15 per cent of energy from renewable sources by 2020.

She said: "Based in

Porthcawl, Sustainable Wales has been aware of the potential of tidal energy from the Bristol Channel for many years.

"We believe this project is a realistic one, both in terms of cost and the amount of energy it will produce.

"We also saw at first hand the recent extraordinary storms in the Bristol Channel.

"The forecast from the IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change) is that the regularity and violence

of such storms will increase with climate change. Renewable energy HAS to be part of the answer to this.

"Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon will produce 9 per cent of Wales' domestic energy needs and will provide carbon savings in excess of 236,000 tonnes per year, contributing to the commitments made by the UK to reduce emissions at the international level."

Store staff's £8,878 for Carers' Trust

STAFF at the Co-operative Food store in Pyle are celebrating coming top of the charts in raising funds for the Carers' Trust.

Stores were tasked with raising money for the Trust after it was selected as the Co-Op's Charity of the Year for 2013.

The team managed to bank £8,878 by organising a range of events and collections and when all the cash was counted, the store was revealed to be the highest earner in the area.

The money will allow Carers' Trust to provide desperately needed advice, support and services for the nation's

hidden army of young adult carers.

Gary Chappell, operations manager for Co-operative Food, said: "The teams in my area have done a fantastic job putting the fun into fundraising.

"I would like to congratulate them all. However, special thanks goes to the team at Pyle, who have shown commitment and dedication to come out on top in our local charts.

"None of this would have been possible without the continued support of our customers.

"So we must extend our appreciation to them, and assure them that their donations will make a tangible difference to the lives of young carers."

A window on Dylan Thomas

ON Friday, May 16, there will be a Wales and world premiere of two new Dylan Thomas-related publications, published by Happenstance, at 8pm, The Stage Door, Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

Helena Nelson will be reading extracts from Ruthven Todd's *The Ghost of Dylan Thomas* and Robert Minihinnick will read his own The *Mythic Death of Dylan Thomas*.

Extracts of Ruthven Todd's work are being published for the first time. Helena Nelson said: "Ruthven Todd gives a marvellously wry account of his friendship with Dylan Thomas and how it haunted him.

"It's a window into another world: long gone but as vivid as ever."

Robert Minihinnick has performed *The Mythic Death...* in the USA and Scotland, but this is the first time it will be heard in Wales.

He said: "These

publications are a refreshing look at Dylan Thomas, avoiding the clichés that threaten to suffocate the writer. My own pamphlet is satirical, concerning the phenomenon of literary fame. It's a necessary slice of lemon in the bland cocktail of the Dylan Centenary."

Between the two Dylan Thomas essays, local writer Kristian Evans will read some of his own poems. The event is supported by 'Literature Wales'.

Preceding this, on Thursday, May 15 at 8pm, Helena Nelson, Happenstance editor reads her own poetry at the Green Room, Sustainable Wales, 5 James Street, Porthcawl CF36 3BG (Tel. 01656 783962).

This will be followed by an open mic.

Entry to these events is £3 each. This secures a free copy of *The Mythic Death of Dylan Thomas* signed by Robert Minihinnick at the end of the May 16 performance.

NEW PRESIDENT FOR BRIDGEND SOROPTIMISTS



ABOVE: Barbara Parish and new president Cathie Rowe.

RECENTLY, during the Bridgend Soroptimist Club AGM at The Heronston Hotel, Cathie Rowe was inducted as club president by past president Barbara Parish.

Members enjoyed a very pleasant supper. Bridgend Soroptimists meet at 7.15pm on second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at the Heronston and welcome new members. More information can be found on the SIGBI website.

EB

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL MAY 8)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
01 Thur	08.34	9.7	20.49	9.7
02 Fri	09.12	9.6	21.24	9.4
03 Sat	09.49	9.2	21.59	9.1
04 Sun	10.22	8.8	22.37	8.7
05 Mon	10.59	8.3	23.16	8.2
06 Tues	11.43	7.8		
07 Wed	00.05	7.6	12.44	7.4
08 Thur	01.11	7.4	13.57	7.3

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Man's 'total disregard for the law'

A 25-YEAR-OLD Kenfig Hill man has appeared at Cardiff Crown Court to face a spate of offences including violence and drink driving, where he was said by Judge Phillip Richards to have "a total disregard for the law".

Richard Fletcher of Woodlands Park admitted charges of wounding and causing actual bodily harm.

There was also a deferred sentence for drink driving and he had been committed to sentence for assault and breach of a suspended sentence of nine months for dangerous driving and causing actual bodily harm.

Prosecutor Stuart McLeese said that at a taxi rank in Swansea there was a dispute and Fletcher punched Nicola Stanton to the side of the face.

He then punched Christopher Barnes and stamped on and kicked his head five times.

He continued to be aggressive and told Mr Barnes "I'll ***** have you." Later he said: "I smashed him. I'm a boxer."

Mr Barnes had cuts that required 31 stitches and a broken tooth crown which cost £1,000 to replace. Miss Stanton had cuts and abrasions.

Last August, Fletcher was stopped

by the police at junction 37 of the M4. He said: "Yes, I've had a few. I just want to go home. Do we have to do this?"

He was found to be over the drink drive limit and became aggressive and abusive.

In October, when drunk, he accused people of talking about him and punched Rebecca Owen to the side of the face.

On another occasion, he abused a pedestrian in Pyle and drove into the man's left side.

Solicitor Rhodri Chudleigh said: "He accepts he is in a serious position. At the age of 15, he suffered a brain injury in a car accident and since then, alcohol and heroin have caused problems.

For the drink driving offence, he was jailed for three months, suspended for two years, and disqualified from driving for three years.

For the remainder of the offences, sentence was adjourned until May 30 and he was released on bail with a 7pm to 7am electronically tagged curfew.

He was also ordered to report to Bridgend Police Station three times a week and pay a victim surcharge of £80.

Man had cocaine in Bridgend bar

AFTER being offered cocaine in a Bridgend bar, a young woman alerted security staff and police carried out an investigation, Cardiff Crown Court heard.

Gareth Russell (30) was searched and after cocaine was found on him, he said: "It's my personal, I bought it from a fellow on the bus."

Russell of Pyle Inn Way, Pyle, admitted possessing cocaine and supplying the drug.

He was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment,

suspended for two years, and ordered to pay £200 costs and to carry out 150 hours unpaid work.

He was also ordered to observe a two-month electronically tagged curfew from 7pm to 7am.

Judge Tom Crowther QC told Russell, who was said to be building up a business as a chimney sweep: "You have family obligations, and you are making a life for yourself.

Nevertheless, these are serious matters. The use of cocaine can have serious consequences."

Prosecutor Ian Kolville, said that on December 7, a 23-year-

old woman was in a bar in Bridgend when she saw Russell, who she knew, and tried to keep her distance from him.

"He offered her drugs, and she immediately contacted the door staff."

Police were called, and he was arrested.

On his mobile phone were text messages indicating he had agreed to sell cocaine for £40.

Russell later disputed this and denied making a profit.

His barrister, Stephen Jeary said: "He lives with his partner in a mortgaged property and loss of liberty would cause serious difficulties.

He is at a low risk of reoffending."

'Make sure to shut out the burglars' WARNING

POLICE in Bridgend are reminding householders not to leave doors and windows open - to reduce the chances of becoming a victim of burglary.

The warning follows a spate of car and shed burglaries in the Cefn Glas and Bryntirion areas, with thieves targeting insecure cars and premises overnight.

Inspector Richard Weber outlines a few security tips: "Never leave a door or window

opened unless you are in view of it. As a matter of practice, if you close a door or window always lock it. All too often a home is entered through an unlocked window or door."

Police are keen to speak with anyone who saw suspicious activity in the Cefn Glas or Bryntirion areas of Bridgend to call 101 in confidence. Alternatively, call the anonymous Crimestoppers line free on 0800 500 111 or email www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information.

Exhibitions will look at wartime Garw

THE Garw Heritage Society is holding a series of exhibitions at the following venues:

Betws Life Centre, until May 3; Bryngarw Country House, May 24 - 26; Braichycymer Inn, June 12 - 14; Pontycymer Leisure Centre, July 9 - 11; Llangeinor RP Centre, September 24 - 26; Blaengarw Hall, October 15 - 17.

Opening times will normally be from 10.30am. The exhibitions will attempt to show what life was like in this area for the families who stayed and the men who left to fight - using photographs, stories, artefacts and personal letters of the time.

For more information, go to www.garwheritage.co.uk.



The Bridgend Rotary Club recently had a wonderful time at the Penderyn Distillery

Rotarians sample the good life!

RECENTLY, several members and partners from Bridgend Rotary Club visited the Penderyn Distillery, which is just north of Hirwaun on the A4059.

After a very interesting and serious introduction to the distilling of a variety of spirits, we were let loose into the bar and tasting area. The atmosphere immediately changed and mature members suddenly appeared to be like children let loose in a sweet shop.

When we had sampled and shared a variety of spirits, we were chauffeured to the Ty Newydd Country Hotel.

After further liquid refreshments we enjoyed an excellent three course lunch and returned home to enjoy a late afternoon / early evening snooze.

An excellent way to spend a Saturday - well organised by Rotarians Sue Cassidy and Alan Reeks.

ROY HODGKINSON

New Year's Day auction raises funds for charities at local pub



Representatives from the various charities receiving their cheques from Julie and Gareth Maund at the Prince of Wales.

EVERY year at the Prince of Wales, Tŷn Kenfig, a presentation is made of cheques to local charities. The funds for these cheques are raised from pre-Christmas raffles and a big auction on New Year's Day.

The New Year's Day auction started off as a bit of fun over 45 years ago when the first event raised £50.

Subsequently, the amounts raised each year have grown and grown.

Auctioneer Graham Jones took control of the auction for many of the 45 years and has been ably assisted for the last two of these by Michael Sims.

This year, just over £8,000 was raised, with the majority coming from the auction.

Cheques were presented by Julie and Gareth Maund, mine hosts at the Prince of Wales, to Pat Griffiths on behalf of LATCH, Frank Childs, MENCAP, Michael Childs for the Pink Bay & Sker Life Guards Club, Sheena Sargeant, Motor-neuron, and Sister Gwyneth Poacher, MBE, SRN, for the Sandville Self Help Centre.

INAUGURAL MAYOR LOOKS BACK IN HER NEW BOOK

COUN Megan Butcher has published a new pictorial book which takes a trip down memory lane to recall her record-breaking year as the first ever Mayor of Bridgend county borough.

During a busy 1996/97, Coun Butcher helped to raise almost £60,000 for her

designated charities, thanks to a series of fundraising escapades that included a sponsored sleepover at HMP Parc in Bridgend in April 1997, before it officially opened.

Coun Butcher, now an independent member for Cornelly, also raised £19,400 for the Nathan Stephens Appeal.

Her book, entitled 'Mayor-Mories', is packed full of photos from her year in office and was put together with help from Mary Emanuel and her daughter Sarah.

Explaining why she wanted to put into print the events that took place during her time as Mayor, Coun Butcher said: "I wanted to document those people from all walks of life who engaged with me while I undertook my role as Mayor.

"I was privileged to meet hundreds of people from in and around the county borough and also some visitors from overseas, and I wanted to thank them all for their support.

"I also wished to publicly acknowledge the hard work and dedication shown by



family, friends and staff from Bridgend County Borough Council, who all went that extra mile to support me with the many fundraising events that took place.

"As any Mayor will know, during your year of office you gather a tremendous amount of material and afterwards you are not quite sure what to do with it. That gave me another reason for producing this book. I hope people find it to be an interesting read."

'Mayor-Mories' costs £10 and is available from Coun Butcher by calling 01656 740451. Proceeds will go to cover publishing costs and her charity, 'Touched by Cancer'.

Coun Megan Butcher with her new book 'Mayor-Mories', which recounts her busy year as the first Mayor of Bridgend county borough in 1996/97.

Police appeal after burglary

POLICE in Bridgend are appealing for information in connection to a burglary in Llys Gwyn, Bridgend..

The burglary took place around 11pm on Friday, April 25, when three males forced their way into a property and demanded money - as well as stealing a laptop and mobile phone.

Police are appealing for witnesses, or anyone with any information in connection to this burglary, to contact them on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or email them at www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information.

RAINBOW RUN IS A RIOT OF COLOUR (AND NO LITTLE STYLE!) ON CONEY BEACH

A SEA of colour filled Coney Beach in Porthcawl for Tŷ Hafan's first 5K Rainbow Run on Sunday, April 27.

More than 1,000 participants were showered in pink, yellow, orange and blue powdered paint for the run – the first event of its kind in Wales.

The Rainbow Run, which is based on the Indian Holi festival of colour, is expected to raise more than £50,000 for Tŷ Hafan, the family hospice for young lives.

Angelo Pucella, from Bridgend, who took part with his son Luca and his wife Beth said: "It has been such a fantastic day. Luca was so excited and he absolutely loved it. It was great to see so many people taking part to raise funds for Tŷ Hafan."

Luca, seven, is the only person in Wales to suffer from ROHHAD (Rapid-onset Obesity with Hypothalamic dysfunction, Hypoventilation and Autonomic Dysregulation) syndrome and was referred to Tŷ Hafan in 2010.

"Tŷ Hafan has been fantastic and we're so grateful for their support. I'll be taking part in Tŷ Hafan's Three Peaks Challenge next. We try and do everything we can as a family to show our appreciation and give something back to Tŷ Hafan," said Angelo.

Mair Jeffreys, event organiser at Tŷ Hafan, said: "The Rainbow Run is about celebration, having fun with friends and raising a smile for Tŷ Hafan. It was wonderful to see so many Tŷ Hafan families, staff and supporters taking part today. Due to the success of the event, we are already planning our next Rainbow Run in west Wales."

"We are incredibly grateful to everyone who took part, not forgetting our amazing volunteers and sponsors who have made the day possible."



PHOTOGRAPHS BY
MALCOLM NUGENT



Quiz supports brothers' charity challenge

REPORT AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY
KEITH E MORGAN

A POPULAR Porthcawl quiz lent its support to a pair of local brothers, Jack and Jordan Jones, who are tackling the Snowdon Challenge on a day trek in north Wales to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

The challenge is in memory of Christopher Walmsley, their grandfather, who lost his battle with cancer last summer.

Christopher Walmsley, 'Bumpy' to his grandchildren, was a well-known and respected Porthcawl builder.

Every month throughout the year, a quiz is held at Beale's Fish and Chip Restaurant, in Porthcawl, to raise

funds – on this occasion for Cancer Research UK. The theme of this month's quiz was Easter, with all the ladies turning out in their colourful bonnets.

As for each monthly quiz, the quiz mistress was Vicki Lane. Not only does she provide all the questions, but she maintains order during the proceedings and makes sure that all competitors stick firmly to the rules!

Arthur Beale thanked Vicki for her continuous unstinting service, thanked all those who had given raffle prizes, and those who had come along to support Cancer Research UK.

He was pleased to announce that the quiz and raffle had raised a total of £566 for Cancer Research UK.



ABOVE: All smiles as everyone shows off their Easter bonnets.

BELOW:
What the evening was all about. 'The Snowdon Challenge' by Jack and Jordan, who are to make the one-day trek.



ABOVE:
Mr Christopher Walmsley.



Owen Teale, local TV and film actor and star of Dylan Thomas' 'Under Milk Wood', which is currently touring throughout Wales and England, before taking Dylan's Gospel to the States and Australia, has time off with his family to enjoy a meal of Beale's fish and chips.



Little Maids sitting in a row and sporting their Easter Bonnets!

Regional AM's praise for young Llanharan farmer

LOCAL farmer, Andrew RT Davies AM, has offered his congratulations after Llanharan resident, David Bugler, was recognized by the FUU for his promise as a young farmer.

The Pencoed College student is about to start

a diploma in agriculture which will involve learning about the industry in college, as well as gaining hands-on experience at local farms.

David won the Farmers' Union of Wales' Glamorganshire county branch Walter Rowlands Memorial Award. The award, in memory of FUU county secretary Walter G

Rowlands, who died in service in 1986, is made to an agricultural student in the county by the union's Glamorganshire county executive committee.

Andrew said: "As a farmer myself with a stake in the family business, I am always thrilled to see the enthusiasm of the younger generation coming through."

"This award supports young farmers and I wish David every success in his future career. Both he and his family must be rightly proud of his achievements."

David, who lives with his parents Michael and Margaret, at Merios Farm, Llanharan, said: "Farming has been always been my passion and I have learnt a lot about the logistics of running a farm from my father and grandfather."

"I particularly enjoy working with the livestock on our farm, which consists of beef cattle and breeding ewes and I look forward to going to the livestock markets to keep up-to-date with the weekly price of livestock."

"In the future I would like to take over the family farm with the intention of continuing to run it for future generations. I feel that my course will teach me how to run the farm to its full potential and the award will assist me to buy reading material for the course."

Appeal for 'Responders' in the Bridgend area

THE Welsh Ambulance Service is appealing to the people in the Bridgend area to make a difference to family, friends or neighbours in distress by becoming a Community First Responder.

The trust is especially keen to recruit in Maesteg, Porthcawl, Pyle and Kenfig Hill.

First responders are volunteers who give up their spare time to attend appropriate 999 calls and give first-hand emergency care to people in their own community.

All volunteers will be trained by the Welsh Ambulance Service to

administer basic first aid, oxygen therapy, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of a defibrillator.

First responders do not replace the normal response of a paramedic in a rapid response car or an emergency ambulance, but if on scene will support the patient until the paramedic arrives.

Training for the latest batch of Community First Responders in this area begins in May.

Stephen Roberts, regional first responder officer, said: "Every second counts when you are trying to save someone's life, and Community First Responder schemes are hugely beneficial in helping the ambulance service provide the best possible pre-hospital care for patients."

PACT meetings

SARN / on Wednesday, May 14, at Tondy Community Hall at 6pm.
BRYN COCH PACT on Tuesday, May 6, at Sarn Life Centre at 7pm.

NANTYMOEL / OGMORE VALE PACT on Wednesday, May 14, at Horeb Chapel, Nantymoel at 7pm.

LLANGYNOR PACT on Wednesday, May 7, at The Richard Price Centre at 5.30pm.

BRYNCETHIN PACT on Wednesday, May 7, at Nazareth Chapel at 6pm.

ABERKENFIG / MONDA, May 19, at Noddfa Chapel at 6pm.

PENYFAI PACT on Monday, May 12, at Aberkenfig Social Club at 7pm.

BLACKMILL PACT on Wednesday, May 14, at the TRA House, Pentre Beili Terrace, Lewistown at 6pm.

YNNYSAWDRE PACT on Wednesday, May 14, at Tondy Community Hall at 6pm.

NANTYMOEL / OGMORE VALE PACT on Wednesday, May 14, at Horeb Chapel, Nantymoel at 7pm.

BETTWS PACT on Thursday, May 15, at Bettws Life Centre at 2pm.

CAERAU PACT on Monday, May 19, at Noddfa Chapel at 6pm.

LLANGYNWYD PACT on Tuesday, May 27, at Llangynwyd Village Hall at 6pm.

PLYLE / CEFN on Thursday, May 29, at Pyle Life Centre, 6.30pm.

CRIBWR PACT on Thursday, May 29, at Pyle Life Centre, 6.30pm.

YNNYSAWDRE PACT on Wednesday, May 14, at Tondy Community Hall at 6pm.

NANTYMOEL / OGMORE VALE PACT on Wednesday, May 14, at Horeb Chapel, Nantymoel at 7pm.

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CRIBWR PACT on Thursday, May 29, at Pyle Life Centre, 6.30pm.

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Scott Williams,
organist.



Rhiannon
Williams-Hale



Stephanie
Bailey



A SMALL part of Bridgend county borough's music and culture was shared in the 'garden of England' at the weekend, when Bridgend Male Choir made its way to the Kent seaside town of Hythe, to perform at St Leonard's Church.

Having performed in previous years at Canterbury and Folkestone, this was the choristers' third visit to the county.

A full church with a knowledgeable 250 congregation welcomed the tourists and showed great appreciation. I say "knowledgeable", as this church stages concerts both vocal and orchestral each weekend throughout its season of music.

The choir, led by musical director, Rhiannon Williams-Hale, and supported by accompanists, Stephanie Bailey and Scott Williams, went through a varied and well chosen programme.

The control, particularly with the quiet singing, was special and drew a standing ovation and much post-concert praise.

All participants during the evening

were from the Bridgend Male Choir. Scott Williams entertained on organ and vocal contributions came from Gwyn Williams, Gareth Reese and its ladies, Rhiannon and Stephanie. Compère Gareth Davies was his usual ebullient self.

Such visits are invariably followed by post-concert singing at a local hotel or hostelry and this afterglow was one of the very best. Many of the congregation and the Kent-based family of visiting choristers Bill and Wayne Hodge joined the enjoyment well into the early hours.

DAVID BURT

AN anti-racism t-shirt designed by a Bridgend schoolboy is in the running for a national award.

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogrw year-3 pupil Tommy Horne is attending a ceremony at the Marriott Hotel in Cardiff today (Thursday) to see if his 'Different Skin - Same Within' design will be a prize winner in a competition organised by anti-racism charity 'Show Racism the Red Card'.

Tommy's t-shirt will be competing against others created by youngsters from schools across Wales in the

creative arts competition.

Wishing Tommy luck, Coun David Sage, BCBC cabinet member for equalities, said: "Show Racism the Red Card is a fantastic initiative which encourages us all to tackle racism and promote diversity."

"Their t-shirt competition was a really fun way of engaging with young people to make them think about the issues surrounding racism in society. Tommy's design contains the wonderful slogan 'Different Skin - Same Within', which is a message that we should all be inspired by and I wish him the best of luck for the competition."

Jessica Gasson, from Show Racism the Red Card Wales, said: "The team at Show Racism the Red Card Wales have been astounded by the quality and creativity of entries received for our 2014 Anti-Racism Competition."

"The competition is, and continues to be, a vital tool used by our organisation to engage young people from all over Wales in thinking about ways that we can all help to tackle racism and create a fairer, more harmonious society for all."



Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogrw pupil Tommy Horne with his anti-racism t-shirt design.

CUPPA WITH A COPPER

THE cafe at Asda in Bridgend was the latest location for South Wales Police's 'cuppa with a copper' scheme so people can meet the neighbourhood police team for an informal chat about issues, including crime prevention.

Officers were at the Bridgend Asda store on April 24, reported PCSO Dave Lewis from the neighbourhood team.

"We are aiming to engage with the community of Bridgend in many different ways. This initiative with Asda provides us with a great way to work in partnership, to listen to residents' views in a relaxed atmosphere over a cup of tea or coffee."

"The Cuppa with a Copper event at the Bridgend Asda store will be repeated every four weeks with the next event due on Thursday May 22, between 5pm and 6.30pm."

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Bowling club's £1.1m Lottery win! 'We won't believe it 'til the money is in the bank'

FIFTY members of Dinas Powys Bowling Club are celebrating a Lottery win of £1,124,000 – but say they won't believe their good fortune until the money is safely in the bank.

It means each person in the syndicate will get £22,480. Many of the people in the syndicate are in their seventies and eighties.

One of the organisers Colin Burgess (78) told The GEM he checked off the numbers on Saturday night and then started phoning people to pass on the good news.

"It is not a life-

changing sum, but it might help people to be a bit more comfortable.

"We've been taking part in the Lottery since day one. In the earlier days we got five numbers once and won about £1,000."

Apart from that £1,000 most of the rare wins were for small sums, although the syndicate did have a win of £202 recently.

"Our nickname was 'The Lottery Losers'. Our idea was that any winnings would go into paying for an evening meal, but we were always having to put money in ourselves to make up the sum."

"Now we're going to have to change our

by **TIM CHAPMAN**

name!"

Colin checked off the Lottery numbers during the Saturday evening show and could hardly believe their six numbers had come up. He and his wife Betty then watched the confirmation of the numbers later in the evening after the news.

"Once I'd confirmed the numbers were right I began phoning around. I also phoned Camelot and they said the numbers were correct. I gave them the number on our ticket and they confirmed it on their system."

This week a representative from

Camelot was due to meet Colin to validate the ticket so the winnings can be paid out.

Colin said: "I've heard some people have already been along to the travel agents," and then he joked, "As long as the

money doesn't end up in an account in the Cayman Islands!"

Colin added: "Some people say they won't believe they've won the money until it is in the bank."

War centenary to be marked

VISITORS to Bryngarw House and Country Park will be able to step back 100 years for a fascinating glimpse into life during the First World War at a

free 'This is YOUR Heritage' event on Sunday, May 11 between 10:30am and 2pm.

The lawn in front of Bryngarw House will be transformed into a trench with battle re-enactments, the local community arts bus will be showing First World War films and audio in a 'pop-up cinema', while families will also be invited to take a walk through the park's woodland for a soldier survival skills demonstration.

In a further tribute to the war's centenary, children will enjoy having the chance to make puppets in a workshop inspired by the 'War Horse' stage show.

The event has been organised by BCBC's rural development programme 'reach', in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Digital Bridgend Project.

The day will also feature guest speakers discussing topics such as the role of women during the First World War, Heritage Lottery Funding and BCBC's Digital Bridgend project, which will use modern technology to let people download content such as videos and audio guides via their smartphones and tablets when they are visiting some of the county borough's most historic sites.

Local historical and heritage groups will also be displaying their latest projects and exhibitions at the event which will delve into Bridgend county borough's past. Visitors to the event will be fascinated to find plenty of local historical information that has been collated by voluntary groups from Bridgend county borough's valleys, villages, towns and coast and visitors are encouraged to bring their own heritage photographs and memorabilia to the event if they would like to share it with the public.

TWO CHINESE RESTAURANTS LOSE LICENCES

THE Golden Bowl Chinese takeaway in Noltton Street, Bridgend, has had its licence revoked after illegal workers were found working there.

A second restaurant, the Noble House in Penrysg Road, Pencoed, described as "sufficiently linked", has also had its licence revoked.

The decision was made at a licensing hearing on April 8, where representatives from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and South Wales Police were in attendance.

The licensing committee made the decision after many illegal workers, who did not have the right to work in the UK, were found to have been employed at the Golden Bowl on several separate occasions in 2012 and 2013.

Despite previous hefty fines, the Golden Bowl continued to employ illegal workers at the premises.

Inspector Steve Jennings said: "Knowingly employing illegal workers is a criminal matter which is taken seriously. Working closely with our partners at the United Kingdom Border Agency, we will investigate and enforce against this type of offence wherever it occurs."

"In this instance, we also identified the further licensing offences which formed part of our application to the licensing committee. Bridgend Community Safety Partnership is committed in the area of licensing to ensure that the key objective of

preventing crime and disorder is delivered.

"We aim to achieve this throughout the borough, making Bridgend a safer place to visit, live and work".

The licensing committee also heard that the Golden Bowl had been in breach of the Licensing Act by closing later than the time their licence permitted.

Inspector Steve Jennings confirmed: "We had heard that the Golden Bowl remained open later than their permitted licence, which was midnight. Adhering to permitted opening hours is fundamental to the prevention of public nuisance and the prevention of crime and disorder".

Given the committee's concerns over the management of the Golden Bowl the decision was made to revoke their licence.

In a statement, South Wales Police added: "The licensing committee found that the Noble House and Golden Bowl takeaways are sufficiently linked that matters pertaining to the Noble House are also relevant to the Golden Bowl."

"The committee therefore took all matters relating to both these premises into account."

"As a result of this the committee also decided to revoke the premises licence for the Noble House because of crime and disorder that had taken place".

PHILIP IRWIN

BCBC welcomes 'glowing' praise for adoption services

BRIDGEND County Borough Council's adoption service was celebrating a "glowing inspection" from the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) this week.

It says the report praised the service for its child-centred approach, timeliness and quality of the assessment process, support they offered, high standards of staffing and leadership, and for the quality of adopters.

A spokesperson said that the inspection took place in October 2013 and involved interviews and meetings with councillors, heads of services, managers, staff, social workers and adopters. In addition, minutes of meetings and files were accessed, and adoption staff and adopters were required to complete questionnaires.

The service was also commended for having made several improvements over the past year, including greater collaborative working and ensuring adoption files were more robust and reflected the process of adoption.

Since the last inspection three years ago, 88 children have

been successfully placed, which is an increase of 83 per cent from the previous three year period which saw 48 children being adopted.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "I am delighted that the adoption service received a good inspection. It signifies the council's commitment to children's services."

"The Bridgend

Adoption Service continues to achieve success and has made a significant number of improvements in the last year alone."

"This is testament to the professionalism of our team who continually work hard and show enormous dedication so we can find forever families for vulnerable looked-after children, which remains a top priority for Bridgend County Borough Council," he added.

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Concert double

I WAS pleased that I was able to attend two amazing concerts last week.

The people of Bridgend who didn't go to the concert in the Tabernacle on Thursday evening missed a real treat.

I go to choral concerts on a regular basis and I can honestly write that both concerts were outstanding; and full credit to the organizers who had put on such impressive shows.

Even though the same choirs took part, the two evenings had completely different programme arrangements.

There were four choirs involved, Ogmere Valley Male Voice, Klapa Skrlt from Kutina, Croatia, a group of seven choristers, Klapa Vonet, from Karlovac (also Croatian), a group of six choristers, and a men's Muzski Zbor, from Kekava, Latvia.

To explain a little, Klapa means a group of singers connected not only by music but also through friendship and emotional links. Klapa singing originated in Dalmatia, a coastal region of Croatia.

Skrlt is a wine that is produced in Moslavina, a beautiful region in mid Croatia.

The group from Kutina was formed in 2006, and seven choristers appeared for them in the two concerts. The group from Karlovac was

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The Gem.

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



formed in 2009 from students at the Croatian Academy of Music, and six choristers sang for them in the two concerts.

The group from Kekava had only been in formation since 2013 under its artistic director Ingmars Vigners, and consisted of 12 members.

Each choir had to include in its repertoire at least two songs from the two other countries. The song lyrics were as those from the country of origin but the musical arrangements and emotions were in the style of the choir's home country.

What was amazing about the groups from Croatia and Latvia was that they sang in complete harmony, certainly pronunciation perfect of the Welsh songs, without accompaniment.

Each group had a different style of starting the songs; with one group, a member would get off the stage, go to the piano, play a couple of notes, go back on stage and he set the beat while they all sang.

Another group

member had a strange instrument which had a small keyboard but he produced music by blowing into it to set the tone, then started singing.

For the last group, one member would start humming so that the others could pick up the notes, and then they sang as a group.

How these groups could sing such a variety of music and sound so complete without any musical accompaniment was truly impressive. In fact, each of the Welsh song 'Myfanwy' was outstanding; any Welsh choir would enjoy singing that arrangement.

To add more Welshness, the concert in Ogmere Vale had a harpist, Lowri Morgan, who ably demonstrated the sheer variety of music that can be produced on this instrument.

During the interval, everyone in each of the choirs and the audience were given a bowl of cawl, a Welsh cake and a slice of bara brith.

Every one of the groups had a standing

ovation from the audience when they had completed their performances. Welsh choirs could learn from Klapa type singing to bring new choristers into their organisations.

MP's visit
MADELINE Moon, the MP for Bridgend recently visited **Brynteg Comprehensive school** to give the sixth form a talk about **International Women's Day**.

The talk took the form of a series of slides on which were a number of questions about the positions that women occupied in the worlds of business and public services. Mrs Moon posed the question of how many women the class felt were in senior management positions.

In many cases, the answers revealed that women occupied senior positions in far smaller percentages than their numbers in the relevant workforce suggest they deserved.

In local government for example, women make up 72 per cent of the workforce, but only about 12 per cent of senior management positions.

Many of the students found this shocking. Women also face the prospect of even now, earning less money than men in many jobs, particularly professional jobs.

Then Mrs Moon turned her attention to the plight of women abroad, and her revelations about the terrible conditions that many women and children live and work in abroad was very distressing.

In some countries such as Yemen for example, women are only regarded as "half a witness" in legal cases and cannot testify in some trials.

The dreadful abuse and denigration of some women abroad was hard to listen to, and many students found it very upsetting.

The talk lasted for about an hour and then Mrs Moon went off to her next appointment. Overall it was a very interesting talk and the students found it very informative, if upsetting in places.

Laleston Gardening Club

THIS go-ahead group has a thriving ladies section which meets on the first and third



Madeleine Moon MP with Brynteg Comprehensive sixth form.

Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm, in the group's **Cliff Cottage**, which is adjacent to **Laleston Church**, where visitors are welcome.

On Saturday, May 10, at 10am, the group will be holding a sale of bedding and perennial plants of flowers and vegetables, and there will be refreshments available, plus homemade cake and card stalls.

On Monday, May 12, at 7.30pm there will be a talk by Helen Mills on the Heritage coast. Everyone is welcome and there is a small charge of £1 which includes a hot drink and a biscuit.

Maesteg summer festival

THIS successful event is to be opened this year with a play written by Alan James Flay.

Alan was originally from Caerau and he has always emphasised the fact that at heart he is a Caerau boy, and is proud to be involved with a prestigious festival which celebrates the rich culture and heritage in the Llynfi valley, even though he now lives in the Rhondda.

The festival opens with his play titled *The Narrow Pathway*, a psychological thriller with a supernatural twist about a woman who is forced to confront her unspeakable past.

The play will be performed by Llynfi Valley amateur dramatic society at Maesteg Town Hall for three nights from Wednesday, May 21 at 7.30pm.

This is Alan's second play to be performed at Maesteg Town Hall by the society. His first was a comedy. Tickets will be available from the town hall at £5.

For information on this and other festival events being held in the town hall, telephone 01656 733269.

Choir's travels

CŌR Merched Cwm Llynfi (Llynfi Valley ladies' choir) will be attending the London Sangerstevne Festival over the weekend of May 9-11.

This non-competitive international choral

festival draws choirs, large and small from all over the UK and Europe. It is modelled on similar festivals in Scandinavia.

The choir took part in the festival last year, the only Welsh choir to do so and were invited back this year to celebrate London Sangerstevne's 10th anniversary.

Performing in churches across south London, there is a chance to listen to choirs, singing a wide repertoire of music. CŌR Merched Cwm Llynfi will be performing two concerts, together with choirs from Italy, Spain and England.

Following their return from London, the choir has a busy month in June with performances planned at the Maesteg Festival, 'Choirs in the Castle' at Coity, culminating in a very special performance at the wedding of the choir's musical director, Paul Deenick Bradley and accompanist Laura Smith.

Anyone interested in joining CŌR Merched Cwm Llynfi is welcome to come along to its rehearsal venue - the Celtic Club, Garth, Maesteg, every Wednesday evening at 7pm.

Membership is not confined to those living in the Llynfi valley; it has six choristers who travel from the Kenfig Hill and Cefn Cribwr

areas.
Mayor's charities

Coun Ross Thomas, the Maesteg Mayor, has providing the following information on raising funds for his charity fund.

The final fundraising event will be at Maesteg Town Hall on Saturday, May 17. It will be a charity ball and a black tie event, with a three-course meal, with tea or coffee and mints.

The entertainment for the evening will be provided by the Bridgend Big Band. Tickets are priced at £25 per person. For further information e-mail maestegmayorcf@gmail.com or telephone Lynda/Ross on 01656 735988/734462.

The Mayor's fund this year is to be shared between two Maesteg charities, the Maesteg Community Day Hospital and the local Scouts group. At present, the fund has raised over £5,000 to help these two causes.

Pontycymer Tennis Club
THIS club, which is affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association, has been in existence since 1927.

The tennis courts behind Pontycymer Square in Lawrence Park now have new courts to prevent

slippage on a wet surface, new ball machines and speed guns, and an updated floodlighting system.

The club has a Lawn Tennis Association coach and is offering his services for any youngsters in the Bridgend county borough area.

It is open to children aged from four to 12 on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings between 5pm and 6pm, adults from 6pm.

The club will provide rackets, balls and the coaching, but all participants must wear trainers.

There is a charge of £2 for children and £3 for adults. These charges include free drinks for children, tea or coffee for adults.

Bridgend Allotment Association

IN these days of austerity here is an opportunity for readers to grow their own fruit and vegetables. There are allotments available on the Bronfair site (off Bridgend Road) Maesteg.

A beginner will receive advice and help from existing allotment holders. If interested, telephone Graham on 01656 736321 for details, and to arrange a visit.

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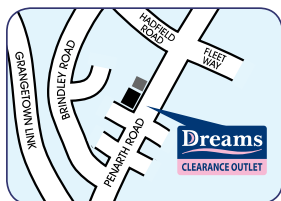
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by MARIA LEIJERSTAM

DOUBLE world record holder Maria Leijerstam from the Vale of Glamorgan, founder of the Burn Series of multisport events and qualified personal trainer, will inspire you with a weekly column on simple family sporting adventures in the beautiful countryside of south Wales.

Maria will guide you on how and where in your area you can combine sport and fitness into family fun.

AFTER work last Tuesday evening, I headed up to Brecon to climb Pen-y-fan as a mark of respect to the 16 Sherpas who were killed on Everest over the Easter weekend.

It was a wet and windy evening and as the light fell over the highest mountain in south Wales, I realised how lucky I was to live so close to such spectacular mountains.

To have the freedom to roam and experience such natural beauty is something we should all



Get on your bike and challenge the family!

take advantage of when we can.

As I was heading home, I dropped into the Garwnant visitors' centre, just off the A470, 14 miles south of Brecon, and was delighted to find the venue for this week's challenge. The centre has been improved dramatically and now features a mini mountain bike skills park, as well as a children's adventure park. Therefore, on your next free weekend, load up the car with a few bikes, outdoor clothes and the family and head for this centre.

The mountain bike skills park is aimed at

children, but is ideal for adult beginners also. There are a variety of features for you to negotiate such as ramps, beams and boardwalks.

If you want to take it one step at a time then that's fine, as all features can either be ridden slowly or avoided completely.

The adventure park, or low ropes course, also at the centre, is a wonderful place for a timed challenge to see how your little ones fare when racing against the clock. This will be a real test of balance, co-ordination, accuracy and strength.

From hanging tires to a zip rope, it's

guaranteed to be a day full of laughter.

Set the challenge between your child and yourself and see who manages the best. Log on to www.burnseries.co.uk for our adventure for full details.

Make sure you join me next week for more adventures. Telephone: 07862 227 187; email maria@burnseries.co.uk

FOOTNOTE

This column is provided for idea purposes only. Always check with your doctor if you have any concerns about your health prior to embarking on any form of physical activity and always let someone know where you are going.

Have you heard of Glympse? It's a brilliant free app that shares your location with anyone you want for a specified period of time.

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Admiral sails to the rescue of Age Concern!



Clients enjoying a cup of tea in the Senior Health Shop Barry.

A CENTRE for older people in Barry can continue for another year – thanks to a donation by local employer, Admiral.

The Age Connects Cardiff & the Vale (formerly Age Concern) Senior Health Shop in Barry received £400 from the company after Ashley Cummings, who works in Admiral's Claims department, applied for funding from the company's Community Chest scheme.

The scheme provides funding for charities, sport teams and organisations in which staff members or their families are involved.

The Senior Health Shop is part of the Ageing Well programme

which aims to improve health and wellbeing of older people (50+) in the Barry area.

Ashley explained: "My Nan attends the shop and was really concerned when she heard it may not be open next year. I knew Admiral had a scheme where I could request funding for local community groups my

family were involved in and this seemed like the perfect opportunity.

"I'm really pleased for my Nan as I know how much she enjoys visiting the shop on a regular basis."

Nona Hexter, Ageing Well Coordinator from local charity Age Connects Cardiff and the Vale, said: "We were seeking funding to

support the Senior Health Shop in the future, which included rent and staff costs which underpin every bit of work we do.

"We have worked in Barry for 22 years and the funding from Admiral has enabled us to continue to support many vulnerable older people in the area."

FESTIVAL OF VALE WALKS

THURSDAY, May 29, sees the launch of the Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival with a guided walk, 'St Lythan's Ancient and Modern', led by Dr Ffion Reynolds of CADW.

Now in its fifth year, the festival will offer 25 guided walks from May 29 to June 1, to encourage people to visit the area.

Local history will be the theme of walks around Barry, Llantwit Major and Llanblethian with a choice of walks exploring the 'heart of the rural Vale and the Glamorgan Heritage Coast'.

Family walks, bilingual walks for Welsh and English speakers and the return of the popular Vale Ale Trail walk around the Cowbridge area are also included.

All walks are free of charge, just turn up on the day. Information is available online at www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk or through email enquiry at: info@valeways.org.uk, or telephone 01446 749000.

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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Concerns over out-of-hours care shows need for change

THERE have been two recent reports which have again caused me concern over the health services being provided to residents in the Vale.

One was the statement by the local Community Health Council (CHC) which described the out-of-hours GP service in the Vale as 'diabolical'.

The other related to handover times from ambulance to hospital care.

I receive many complaints from residents in the Vale of Glamorgan about out-of-hours care. I understand that after 1am there are only one GP and one nurse based at the UHW site available to cover the population of Cardiff and the Vale.

Originally the cover was provided by two GPs in the Vale and two in Cardiff, with one GP 'out on the road' in each area.

Over the Easter Bank holiday, one parent of a young baby needed out-of-hours care. They had to wait five hours for a call back from a GP on duty. The target time is to be within one hour. This, of course, has derived from the privatisation of out-of-hours care that was introduced 10 years ago.

This naturally leads people to attend A&E rather than seek assistance locally. This



**Vale MP
Alun Cairns
reports to
GEM readers**

times when the vehicles are being tied up at hospitals with patients they are unable to transfer.

I have been so worried that I met recently with the Local Health Board about Barry Hospital, which included discussions about out-of-hours care. There are concerns that the Vale has no cover at some periods. We should not suffer because of the dominance of Cardiff or administrative bureaucracy.

I highlighted again with the Local Health Board that residents to the west of Cowbridge and as far south as Llantwit Major are particularly at risk as all of the out-of-hours care is based in Barry and Cardiff.

The administrative boundary is the Ogmere River, meaning that residents in Ogmere by Sea have to travel to Barry – this is designed to suit bureaucrats, not patients. I have long called for the western Vale to be serviced through the Princess of Wales Hospital.

I fear we are experiencing the impact of cuts to the health budget here in Wales. The Welsh Government is the only administration across the whole of the UK to cut health spend.

These reports have echoed many feelings that the system should be overhauled. I want service commissioners to address this as a matter of urgency and will do all I can to deliver a change locally.

obviously adds pressure to an already overstretched emergency department.

As we have also seen this week, waiting times at local hospitals that service the Vale have failed to meet the Welsh Government target handover time.

The Vale did not come out well from this report either, with 76 patients waiting for over four hours to be transferred for emergency care.

The report highlights that 29 patients waited over four hours, with 569 waiting for more than two hours.

This is not acceptable and the obvious knock-on effect is a poor ambulance response

Heritage bus rides in!

ON Sunday May 4, the Cardiff Transport Preservation Group is offering free heritage bus rides all day from its 1930s centre, the Bus Depot, Broad Street in Barry.

The 'Running Day' means there will be a bus departing the bus depot giving free travel every half hour to a local destination. Some will be visiting privately-owned heritage buses. All buses will be between 33 to 62 years old!

Mike Taylor, chairman of the group, said: "We tried out a running day for the first time last year and we were surprised how popular it was, especially among local people. A different heritage bus will depart in rotation, on three bus routes, one every 30 minutes. We will be selling a

timetable on the day to go towards the cost of fuel and donations for getting a bus in South Africa back to Barry.

"This is our first major public activity this year as a warm-up to our big Festival of Transport on Barry

Island on June 8, when we are expecting over 200 classic and vintage cars."



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15 years of being there

Cowbridge man killed in Afghanistan helicopter crash was a 'rising star'



Cpl Oliver Thomas

A COWBRIDGE man was among five men who died in southern Afghanistan when their helicopter crashed, writes PHILIP IRWIN.

Captain Thomas Clarke, 30, a former Cowbridge Comprehensive School pupil, was also a member of the local ATC from the age of 13 to 15.

Another man who died, Lance Cpl Oliver Thomas from Brecon, also had strong connections to the Vale, particularly in the

farming community.

The crash took place on April 26, and the MoD confirmed the names of those who lost their lives as: Captain Thomas Clarke, Army Air Corps; Flight Lieutenant Rakesh Chauhan, Royal Air Force; Warrant Officer Class 2 Spencer Faulkner, Army Air Corps; Corporal James Walters, Army Air Corps and Lance Corporal Oliver Thomas, Intelligence Corps.

Group Captain Richard Maddison, Station Commander RAF Odiham said: "I am extremely saddened to

hear of the loss of Captain Thomas Clarke, Flight Lieutenant Rakesh Chauhan, Warrant Officer Spencer Faulkner and Corporal James Walters, all who served at Royal Air Force Odiham.

"My deepest sympathies are with their families and friends at this most difficult time, and also with the family of Lance Corporal Oliver Thomas, who was not from Royal Air Force Odiham but who was also on the Lynx aircraft.

"It was only a week before the accident that I visited their unit in

Afghanistan, and flew in a Lynx with Captain Clarke, Warrant Officer Faulkner and Corporal Walters. It was an absolute pleasure to fly with them and to discuss their work; it was also incredibly reassuring to meet such professional and enthusiastic members of their unit".

The MoD statement said: "Captain Tom Clarke was born in Cardiff. After studying for his A-Levels, he gained a degree in Biological Sciences at the University of Birmingham in 2006. He enlisted as an Army Officer in May 2007, undertaking officer training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. He graduated in April 2008, commissioning into the Army Air Corps as a Pilot.

"He completed a short tour of Afghanistan prior to commencing flying training in July 2008. He completed his helicopter pilot training in May 2010 and was posted to 661 Squadron and subsequently 652 Squadron to fly the Lynx.

"Captain Clarke was posted to RAF Odiham in October 2013 and has deployed on numerous occasions in support of training exercises. An ambitious and competent young officer, he had a very bright and promising future in the Army".

His Commanding Officer said of him: "Captain Thomas Clarke was a fantastic young officer, full of life and immensely committed to his soldiers and friends.

"In the short time he had served in the unit he had proven to be an exceptional aviator and forthright leader who always placed himself at the centre of squadron life. His loss will be keenly felt both at RAF Odiham and within the wider Army Air Corps.

"Our thoughts and sympathy are with his wife, family and friends at this most difficult of times".

The Commander for the deployed Lynx Detachment said: "Captain Tom Clarke was a hard working, loyal and gifted aviator who was a privilege to

command. His brightness, character, humility and charm will be remembered by all.

"He brought a smile to people's faces and I was fortunate enough to have worked with him at RAF Odiham as well as in Afghanistan. A rising star of the Army Air Corps his loss will be deeply felt and I feel honoured and privileged to have called him a friend.

"He will be deeply missed by the Air Detachment and by his Squadron. My thoughts and prayers are with his loving wife Angie and his family and friends."

His family has paid the following tribute: "We cannot express enough our devastation at the loss of a truly wonderful husband, son, brother and friend.

"Tom brought so much happiness and love to everyone he knew with his sparkling blue eyes and cheeky smile.

"He had an absolute passion for life and was the best part of us; we are all poorer today without him. We carry your heart, we carry it in our heart".

Dr Terry Prosser, a former squadron officer with Cowbridge Air Training Corps, said: "The squadron wishes to record its great sadness at the loss of Captain Tom Clarke. Tom was a Cadet with the squadron from 1997 to 1999, and he is remembered by all who knew him as a totally dedicated and enthusiastic member.

"He was consistently polite and good-humoured, and was a pleasure to work with. He will be greatly missed by his contemporaries and, especially, by the squadron staff."

Tom Clarke was also well-known at Cowbridge Rugby Club. A club spokesman issued the following tribute: "The club was shocked and saddened to learn of the death of Tom Clarke on active service in Afghanistan.

"Tom played for the minis, juniors and also Cowbridge first team. He was a tough, uncompromising player on the pitch but a perfect gentleman off it.

"He will leave a huge hole in the lives of his wife, Angie, parents Bruce and Denise, brother and sister in law, Simon and Sally and all of his many friends.

"As the best of the best, Tom, we salute you".

Vale AM Jane Hutt said: "My deepest sympathies are with the



Capt Tom Clarke.

family and friends of Capt Thomas Clarke for the loss of this courageous and outstanding man who served his country so bravely."

Lance Corporal Oliver Thomas (26) was born in Brecon, Powys. He joined the Army Reserve in June 2011, and after moving to London he joined 3 Military Intelligence Battalion in July 2012.

He volunteered to be mobilised from the Army Reserves for deployment to Afghanistan and arrived on December 11, 2013 to be part of the United Kingdom's contribution to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

His Officer Commanding said: "Lance Corporal Oli Thomas was the embodiment of his generation: bright, gifted with an enquiring mind and laser focussed on the task in-hand.

"The bonus for us was that he was also blessed with a natural flair and the happy knack of always being able to raise a smile with his keen sense of wit.

"The future and uncertainty did not disturb him. He only saw opportunity ahead and, ultimately, it was his irresistible addiction to the life-force that took him away.

"It is with regret and to my loss that I did not know Oli for longer - but in only a short time he made an immediate and lasting impression. His absence has left an enormous gap in a close-knit team. We will remember him."

His family paid the following tribute: "Oliver was a truly amazing person, living his life to the full, while fulfilling some of his many dreams and adventures.

"He was very much loved and will be greatly missed by his grieving family and friends".

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A SEA of colour filled Coney Beach in Porthcawl for Tŷ Hafan's first 5K Rainbow Run on Sunday, April 27.

More than 1,000 participants were showered in pink, yellow, orange and blue powdered paint for the run – the first event of its kind in Wales.

The Rainbow Run, which is based on the Indian Holi festival of colour, is expected to raise more than £50,000 for Tŷ Hafan, the family hospice for young lives.

Angelo Pucella, from Bridgend, who took part with his son Luca and his wife Beth said:

"It has been such a fantastic day. Luca was so excited and he absolutely loved it. It was great to see so many people taking part to raise funds for Tŷ Hafan."

Luca, seven, is the only person in Wales to suffer from ROHHAD (Rapid-onset Obesity with Hypothalamic dysfunction, Hypoventilation and

Autonomic Dysregulation) syndrome and was referred to Tŷ Hafan in 2010.

"Tŷ Hafan has been fantastic and we're so grateful for their support. I'll be taking part in Tŷ Hafan's Three Peaks Challenge next.

We try and do everything we can as a family to show our appreciation, and give something back to Tŷ Hafan," said Angelo.

Mair Jeffreys, event organiser at Tŷ Hafan, said: "The Rainbow Run is about celebration, having fun with friends and raising a smile for Tŷ Hafan."

"It was wonderful to see so many Tŷ Hafan families, staff and supporters taking part today. Due to the success of the event, we are already planning our next Rainbow Run in west Wales."

"We are incredibly grateful to everyone who took part, not forgetting our amazing volunteers and sponsors who have made the day possible."

Mann and Diaz bring laughter in The Other Woman

WHEN you're looking for a female actress to head up a studio comedy, the first person many would turn to would be Cameron Diaz.

While a credible actress in her own right, Diaz carries off comedy exceptionally well, and her latest effort, *The Other Woman*, sees her play Carly, who hooks up with Mark (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau). However, she soon discovers Mark is married to Kate (Leslie Mann), and the pair decide to turn the tables on the shiftless man.

When a second affair with Amber (Kate Upton) is discovered, she too joins the pair in meting out justice to Mark...

The set-up for *The Other Woman* sounds (at least to these masculine ears) tired and boring, a case of retreading ground that the likes of *The Women* have already trampled with little laughter and even less subtlety. However, saddling said premise with skilled performers results in a fluffy and satisfying comedy that may be slightly muddled in the message it's trying to put across, but makes for a diverting and amusing film.

Much of the credit lies in the work of the actors on show, none of whom are stretching themselves, but aren't required to. Top of the class is Leslie Mann, an actress who is always watchable, and who seems to be getting the chance to impress in films that aren't produced by her husband, Judd Apatow.

Her character is the pivot of the film, a woman who takes her



by
GARETH JAMIESON

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look glamorous, but she has a few moments to shine in a turn that is better than expected.

The film is directed with very little identity by Nick Cassavetes (director of *The Notebook*, perhaps the finest example ever of a gender-bridging 'chick flick'), the film visually anonymous and edited to feature a musical cue every time the dialogue dries up. The jokes do hit home, but the film looks so overtly glossy and stylised – it's not likely to be discussed by film students in years to come.

While the script is witty, and generates a decent amount of laughs, much of this lies more in the performances than in the actual writing. Melissa Stack's script doesn't really have much substance to it, the humour lacking any real bite, while the message of the film (a woman doesn't need a man, just female friends) gets somewhat obscured, come a conclusion that involves a bikini-clad bottom and a kiss.

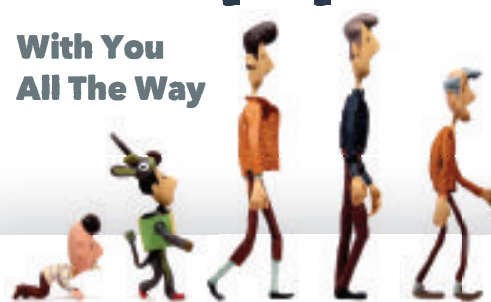
However, as undemanding, female-centric comedies go, *The Other Woman* is a pleasing watch; it looks great on the surface, but any attempt to delve any deeper is pointless and needless.

VERDICT: A bubbly comedy that gets a massive boost from its strong cast, *The Other Woman* is a likeable film that delivers humour in the most undemanding way possible. Ignore the deeper issues that muddy its message, and instead just sit back and watch the likes of Cameron Diaz and Leslie Mann do their comedy thing. *Enjoyable.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Sweetest Thing* (2002), *The Women* (2008).

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Out and About with The GEM

Lions' May fayre fun

THIS bank holiday Monday sees the Porthcawl Lions' annual May Fayre in All Saints' church, Victoria Avenue.

The day starts at 11am with the official opening by the Mayor of Porthcawl, after which there is fun for all. Among the attractions are a children's corner, which includes story times, bric-a-brac, books, homemade cards and soft toys, charity stalls, games for everyone, a dog show and an arena which will provide different entertainments.

When you get hungry or thirsty you can choose from burgers, hot dogs, sandwiches, hot Welsh cakes and follow that with cakes or ice cream.

The fun finishes at 3pm with the draw for the grand raffle. All this for only 50 pence per person entrance; children accompanied by adults free.

Stamp fair

BARRY Philatelic Society is holding a fair in the town.

There will be stamps, postcards, and national dealers present. It takes place at the Highlight Community Centre at the rear of Tesco, Port Road,

Barry from 10am to 4.30pm on Saturday, May 3.

Admission is 50p, refreshments will be available.

The next fair will be on Saturday, November 15. For more details, telephone 01446 741026.

Shadows Club

ON May 3 at Penarth's Conservative Club, Stanwell Road (029 2030 9979), south Wales Shadows Club's meeting – play (use our PA, etc) or just to listen; licensed bar, 8pm. Usually £3; all are welcome.

Computers for beginners

COMPUTER-phobic people living in Communities First areas of Barry are being encouraged to fight their fear on a free four-week Agored Cymru accredited course.

The Vale Council-led Barry Communities First team, in partnership with Vale of Glamorgan Adult and Community Learning, are launching a basic IT skills course in Barry Library on Monday, May 5 from 10am to noon at Barry Library.

Flower club's demonstration

COWBRIDGE and District Flower Arrangers' Club will meet at 7.30pm on Wednesday, May 7, in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall.

Sharon Dower will give a demonstration entitled 'In the Mood For'.

Come, relax and enjoy the evening. A warm welcome awaits you.

Harpeth Rising in Bridgend

The all-women American folk trio Harpeth Rising will be giving their first performance in Wales for Bridgend World Roots at the Cabo

Roche Cafe Bar on May 8, at 8pm.

Bridgend World Roots promotes the very best in world, roots, folk and Celtic music in the area.

The Cabo Roche Cafe Bar is located at 5 Bells Road in Bridgend; admission is £8, more information on 01656 663555.

Art society

ON Thursday, May 8 at Cowbridge Art Society, local artist Shirley-Anne Owen will direct a practical painting session as a follow-up to last week's demonstration.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, 7pm to 9pm, and visitors and new members are welcome. For details of the society's activities, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

Porthcawl shop's

'frock swap' event

A FASHIONISTA'S Frock Swap is being held on Friday, May 9, from 7.30pm in the Green Room, upstairs in Sussed, James Street, Porthcawl.

Entry (£3) includes a drinks and nibbles reception – alcoholic and non-alcoholic. Sustainable Wales organisers say the event is open to men and women.

Life Is For Today (LIFT)

THE LIFT self-help group offers support and friendship to those affected by breast cancer and meets in Cowbridge every other Wednesday between 10am and 1pm (and sometimes between 2pm and 4pm).

Visiting speakers, special activities, relaxation therapies, and an opportunity to chat with others in a similar position are all on offer.

The next meetings will be on Wednesday, May 7 (10am to 1pm) and May 21 in the afternoon, for a talk on 'Fatigue to Fabulous'.

If you know of anyone who might benefit from this group, please call Anne on 01446 772843, or Jan 01446 774575. New members welcome.

It's My Shout

THIS year, in partnership with the Arts Council of Wales and Barry YMCA HUB, It's My Shout is returning to Barry to make a short film for

On your marks for Tenovus' Goodnight Walk!

OVER 300 walkers have already put their names down to light up the night in Cardiff on May 17 – and help make life better for people affected by cancer on the Tenovus Goodnight Walk.

Last year, walkers raised over £40,000 for Tenovus and the Goodnight Walk for 2014 is set to be even bigger and better! The five or 10-mile routes around the Welsh capital have plenty of entertainment to spur participants on!

Bethan Palfrey, challenge event manager at Tenovus, said: "This year, our Goodnight Walk is back, bigger and better than ever with loads more exciting things planned for our walkers, making sure it's going to be a very, very goodnight!"

Registration is £12 with a discounted rate for groups of four walkers.

Enter yourself or your team at tenovus.org.uk or call 029 2076 8860 for more information.

SPONSORED BIRDWATCH

A SPONSORED birdwatch has been organised for Saturday, May 3, at Cosmeston Country Park.

The event is open to all and runs from 11am to 1pm. The proceeds of the event will go to ValePlus, a local charity that provides lifelong learning and leisure opportunities for people with a learning disability.

Meet at the visitor centre at 10.45am. Sponsor forms and further details are

available from ValePlus on 01446 746691 or by emailing steve@valeplus.org.uk.

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broadcast on BBC Cymru Wales.

Young people will be offered production and acting opportunities on the film, giving them the chance to discover what working on a set is like, as well as meeting people in the industry who can provide advice and guidance on film and television opportunities.

An information and registration evening takes place on May 8 at Barry YMCA from 7pm.

Bridgend PACT

A POLICE and Communities Together (PACT) drop-in surgery will take place at Bridgend's Asda store on May 9 from 10am – 12 noon.

Scouts Remember

ON May 11 at 2pm, members of the Scout and Guide Association's Barry district will attend St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry, for a service led by Father Ben Andrews to renew their Promises and remember fallen members of both associations who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

This will be a special service for both youth organisations, who will be joined by various ex-Service organisations, including the Royal British Legion.

Following the service, members of both organisations and standards will form up on King's Square and parade through the town to the Cenotaph at the memorial hall, where wreaths will be laid. Any ex-members of the organisations are welcome to attend.

Garden party

THE Cowbridge Marie Curie fundraising group is holding a party in the Cowbridge Physic Garden on May 16, at 6.30pm – 8.30pm. Tickets priced £15, to include canapés and a glass of champagne, are available from Davies the Newsgate and David Barnes the Dry Cleaners.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D824.

£2,000: 753928.
The rollover, which now stands at £10,500 was not won this week.
£10: 7 7 1 4 4 2 , 306685, 605598, 885398, 514920, 386209, 653016, 778568, 424180, 866803, 502785, 850630, 127337, 217972, 104988, 217008, 706474, 738458, 517400, 849929.

£5: 583140, 434272, 512035, 414372, 618198, 789826, 679554, 264596, 639182, 322243, 237529.

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Cock o' the Bristol Channel race

A FLEET of historic Bristol Channel pilot cutters is coming to Barry Yacht Club to compete for the title of 'Cock o' the Bristol Channel' from Friday to Saturday, May 2 – 3.

The boats are the original cutters, now over 100 years old, 50 foot high and 80 foot long, and will recreate the glory years of pilot channel racing where they competed to get to incoming ships first to offer their services.

The cutters have been maintained to such a standard that they are still able to complete this demanding race, run under the auspices of Barry Yacht Club.

The cutters have become recognised world wide as one of the finest class of working sailing craft ever developed, required as they were to remain at

sea in the Bristol Channel in all weathers.

Courtesy of Associated British Ports, it is a rare opportunity to see the cutters as they arrive and lock in at about 8pm on Friday May 2, and leave at 8am the following morning.

Weather permitting the race will start at 10am off the entrance to Barry Harbour, and an excellent view of the boats will be available from the footpath around Nell's Point from about 9am onwards.

Howard Lavis of the Barry Yacht Club said: "The race is as hard fought for now as it was a century ago. Don't miss a unique opportunity to see something very special! This will be a very special sight to witness with these majestic, beautiful boats sailing the Channel. It will be like going back in time."

Further details about the club can be found at www.barryyachtclub.co.uk.

Llantwit pub's beer festival

A Llantwit Major pub is hosting a beer and cider festival over the bank holiday.

The festival at the Old Swan Inn will also feature live music over the weekend from May 2-5.

A spokesman said: "The list includes a selection from Grey Trees, Gower and Celt, and will be complemented by local bands, including Burning Bridges, The Peter Cronin Band, Cherry Five and Seafall".

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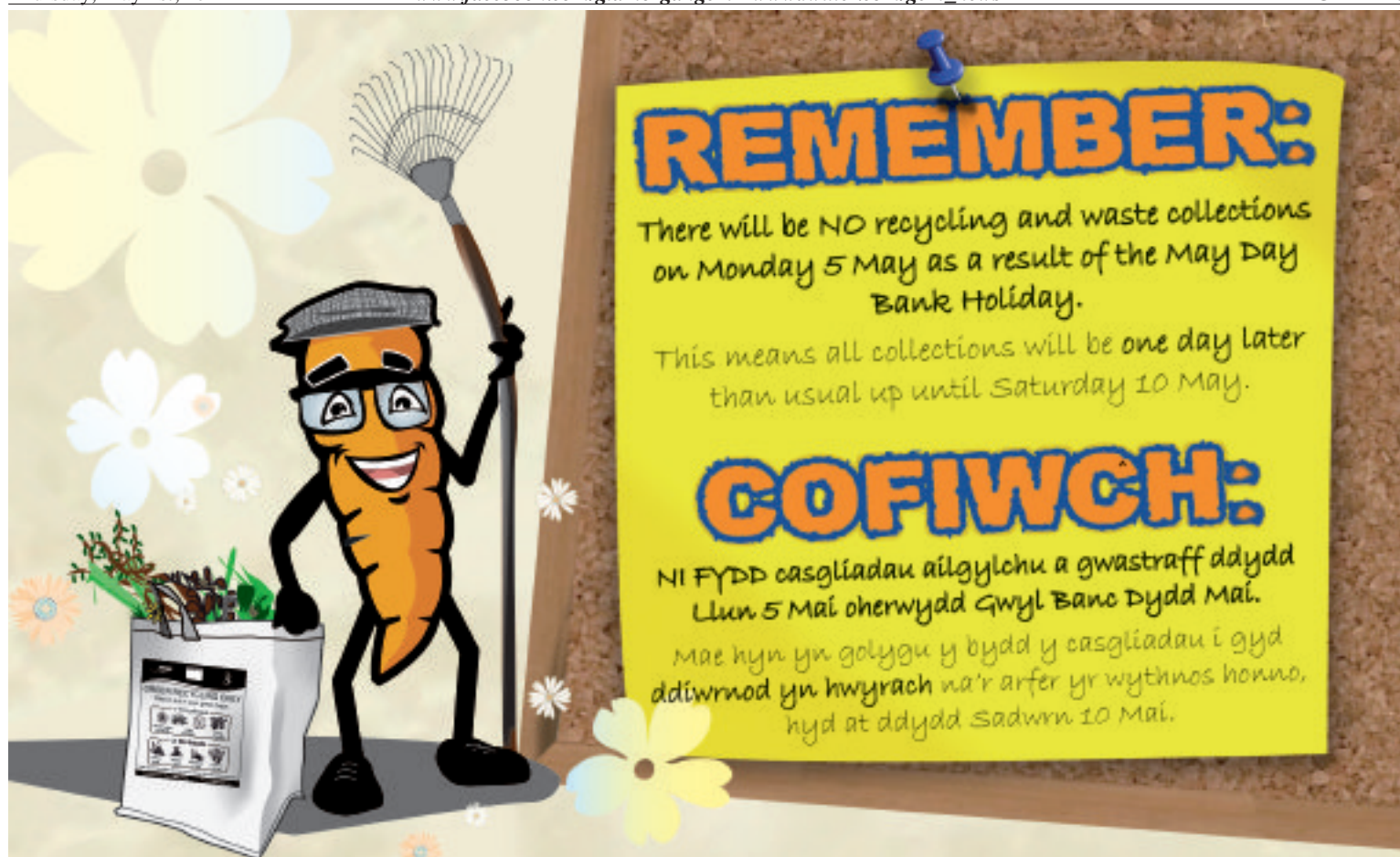
Our GEM Facebook winner for April 24 is:
Ruth le Breton-gealy
who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM! The answer was:
Friday 16th May 2014

Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM.

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Recalling The Life and Times of a Liberated Woman

by NANCY DAVIDGE (PART 7)

WHEN my daughter passed the 11-plus, I asked what she would like as a reward, and she decided she would like to go to Rome.

So that is what we did! It was the most rewarding experience – with the magnificence of St Peter's, the Colosseum where so many poor souls had fought for their lives against the odds, and the romantic gesture of the coin throwing in the Trevi fountain.

On my daughter's sixth birthday, we bought her a miniature poodle, that would prove to be the beginning of a love affair with the breed. We had someone who would come to our home to clip 'Popsy' and her two puppies but one day I decided to have a go myself.

Having bought the best equipment I could find, I didn't do very well the first couple of times. I then went away to Bristol for a week's professional training. After that, it just snowballed! I found suitable business premises and employed four trained girls to cope with the 400 dogs on my books.

It was an extremely hectic time. I was also successful in the showing of my toy poodle Trushka at a number of London venues and at the cream of shows, Crufts.

Although we did not win, it was worth the effort just to be there. My next adventure

would take me to Kenya again to see the wildlife, this time, my brother would accompany me.

You may wonder why my husband preferred not to travel abroad – I know it was the fear of again contracting malaria.

On our way to Kenya, we had a short stopover in Rome and then in Uganda, where breakfast was prepared for everyone.

We then continued to Nairobi, where we would stay for one week to see the wildlife, before continuing to Mombasa to enjoy the lovely facilities at the Mombasa Beach Hotel.

How things have changed since my visit and I would be reluctant to visit the area again, since the bombing of Nairobi.

It does help to have family members in certain countries. I have a nephew and a niece living in Bermuda, so I accepted an invitation to a wedding there. It is indeed a place full of romance.

The guild to which I belonged when I lived in London invited members to write an essay on how we could best help the underdeveloped countries.

Encouraged by my husband, I entered the competition and was surprised when I won for the London area. It meant having to go to Stanford Hall, which is the international college for all co-ops in the country.

I based my idea on the Red Farm, which

began in the years prior to the Second World War, when unemployed people from the Valleys came to Llangan to work in local greenhouses and shared in the profits.

The houses built to house the farm workers were at that time charging a few shillings a week rent. Of course, when the Second World War started a number of the original employees left the land to find war work and a higher wage.

I had an open invitation to visit the Seychelles from the Minister of the Interior, who was one of the group from the United Nations.

When I returned to my home and continued my work in the poodle parlour, I was asked to speak to other guilds in the London area about my experience at the college.

I did this for a time then I was invited to speak on other subjects. I replied that I would talk on 'My Poodle and I' and it became an instant success.

I would take two poodles with me and sometimes three. I began getting requests from the east coast. It was becoming too much so I had to eventually stop as it was not being fair to my husband and my employees.

Next week, my American experience!

New plans for Vale libraries could trigger war of words

by PHILIP IRWIN

A WAR of words is likely in the next few weeks as the Vale Council considers proposals to reconfigure library services – a move that hopes to save £500,000 from the council's budget.

While unions representing staff are concerned about proposed reduced opening hours, and the consequent cut in wages, the council is presenting the new plan in a much more positive light, describing it as a "radical redesign".

The plan was considered by the Vale Council cabinet on Monday (April 28) and the cabinet is emphasising that no decision will be taken until after a consultation period.

A council spokesman said: "The radical redesign looks to bring the Vale's library services into the 21st century. The plans, informed by the recent library review will see Wi-Fi service upgraded and extended and digital services such as e-books pushed to the fore."

"Under the proposals, no libraries in the Vale will close but instead new proposals to work in partnership with communities can be agreed".

St Athan, Dinas Powys, Sully and Wenvoe are the ones which could become community libraries, run in partnership between local volunteers with support from the council.

This option will be dependent upon further negotiations and consultation with various organisations and community councils in the areas concerned.

The council suggests that partnerships on this model could even see libraries opened out of hours for book clubs or children's activities as a result of extra flexibility.

However, the council is clearly hoping to make significant savings by cutting the opening hours of five main libraries – Barry, Cowbridge, Llantwit Major, Penarth and Rhosce.

The report considered by the cabinet said that 'footfall' in libraries is low in the early morning and later in the day, so these are where the cuts in opening hours will fall. It seems unlikely that libraries will open before 10am, and they will also close earlier.

The Welsh Conservative Assembly Leader, Andrew RT Davies, is concerned about this and said: "Libraries play a vital role in our communities and while that role has changed over the years, they remain important for both cultural and social reasons."

"It's not just about making books available and fostering a love of reading, whether for pleasure or educational purposes."

"Libraries are social and cultural community hubs – hosting community groups, schoolchildren and providing access to the internet for job seekers or families who are not online."

"I have deep concerns over these plans. Whilst understanding the need to make savings at council level, I worry that restricting opening hours and cutting the budget for books will make libraries less accessible to the community."

"These plans are due to affect opening hours at five libraries and I would urge people from Barry, Penarth, Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Rhosce who use these services to write to their local councillors and make their views known."

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the Vale Council, said: "The way in which our residents use libraries is changing. This fact, coupled with the financial pressures that the council is currently facing, has prompted a radical re-think of how we provide library services."

"The outcome of this is a new way of working that will not only secure the future of all of the Vale's libraries, but also

broaden their appeal to bring in a new generation of library users."

"I would urge anyone interested to read the cabinet report in full and not listen to any rumours, or false and misleading information, that appears to be spreading on this subject," Coun Moore stated.

"It should be emphasised that there will be full consultation on the 'proposed strategy', which looks to find innovative solutions to the huge financial pressures facing local authorities across Wales, rather than just closing services down."

"The council is fully committed to the future of library services and has also committed over £300,000 to refurbish library buildings to ensure a quality service for local residents, and we will continue to do everything within our power to support the Vale's libraries."

Coun Chris Franks of Plaid, who represents Dinas Powys, said: "The way that the community and the staff have been treated is very worrying. Local councillors have been kept in the dark."

"To say that libraries are closing elsewhere is not a reason to downgrade Dinas Powys or, indeed, other Vale libraries. In fact, there has just been a government grant to improve libraries across Wales, including Llantwit as well as Grangeatun."

"Having behaved in this manner, why does the Vale think that volunteers will now step into the breach and assist?"

"There is a lot of anger in Dinas Powys about the attitude of the Vale Council and goodwill is now in short supply."

The council plans will also see a 'pop-up' library service started in the Barry area. This service, which will be run by the Vale Council in partnership with Barry Town Council, will visit care homes and community centres and enable residents with mobility issues to access library services, lost when the previous Vale-wide service was withdrawn.

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**TREOES, LLANGAN
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Well cleared!
Congratulations to the people who have cleared the weeds and overhanging branches of trees on the road near the river bridge.

This will allow residents to walk their dogs in safety along this very busy road. The whole of the adjoining playing field is also looking good.

Well done to the people responsible. Now the Vale Council

should play its part and begin repairing the many potholes in and around the village. There are still many on the road leading to Llangan.

Well attended
THIS year's Easter morning service at St Mary Hill church was well attended by local parishioners and others from further afield. Again, a big thank you to Mary Lloyd for her efforts in providing breakfast for everyone, as it was so early in the morning (6am!).

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Tractor run for Ed Evans cause



PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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ON Sunday, April 27, the Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society held its annual tractor run in support of the Ed Evans Foundation charity.

There was a smaller turnout than in previous years, with 35 tractors leaving Frank Sutton's yard in St Mary Hill at 10.30am.

The lunch break was taken at the

Brackla Café on the Coity Industrial Estate, where the needs of the tractor drivers and the followers were taken care of.

One of the outfits was an international tractor with an odd sign printed on the bonnet "Shoes must be worn when driving this tractor".

On further inquiry, it was discovered that this tractor had come from a nudist

colony! We were told that the new owner's good lady had made it quite clear that she had no intention of driving the tractor until the tractor seat was replaced!

Thanks were extended to Frank Sutton and staff for the use of their site, and it was confirmed that the tractor run had raised in excess of £450 for the charity. BG

Vale will be a test case for Assembly bus network trial

THE Vale has been selected as a trial area for a Welsh Government study on how to improve rural bus networks.

Transport Minister Edwina Hart announced two trials, where the Vale Council, and also Ceredigion, will each receive £100,000 to tackle the problem of rural networks.

The trials will run for a year and be evaluated by the Bus Policy Advisory Group, who will then advise the Minister on what schemes could be rolled-out nationally.

The Vale Council is to investigate a number of schemes, including:

- How to encourage new fare-paying passengers to use rural public transport.
- Establishing a scheduling and booking system for public transport, with ICT

support, reflecting the Green Links services.

- Identifying on-road infrastructure improvements, such as bus stops.

- Establishing a collaborative team to manage services to reduce costs.

- Evaluate the potential for discounted bus travel for young people and those not in employment, education or training.

Andrew RT Davies, the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, said the money was welcome, but little more than a "sticking-plaster".

He said: "Rural bus services have been devastated by Welsh Government cuts of over £24 million and the impact here in the Vale has been particularly profound.

"Whilst this money is welcome, it is a minuscule fraction of the cash lost so far by operators who have in

turn withdrawn numerous local routes.

"It is asking a lot of the Vale council to turn bus services around with this sum – akin to sending a fire fighter in to tackle a forest fire with a damp flannel."

Mr Davies said the focus on increasing take-up of rural services was welcome – but missed the point that in many areas there simply are no bus services.

"I welcome the focus on encouraging local people to use rural bus routes more regularly but in some instances there simply are no buses for them to use.

"I genuinely hope that these schemes are successful because it is vital that people can access work, education and other public services but recent cuts to funding by the Welsh Government have hit the Vale hard.

"The Minister needs to go further and look again at the new system they have introduced to calculate operators' subsidies."

PUBLIC IS URGED: 'Take extra care during firefighters' strike action'

AS firefighters announce further industrial action over the Bank Holiday weekend, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer of South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFRS) is urging communities to be 'extra vigilant' at home and on the roads.

Strike action is planned on May 2, between noon and 5pm; May 3, from 2pm until 2am the following morning; and May 4, from 10am until 3pm.

Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Rod Hammerton, stressed: "Whilst South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority understand why staff are taking industrial action, as fire and rescue authority has a duty and an obligation to ensure that the

provision of services to the public remains as unaffected as is reasonably practicable.

"The strike dates coincide with a bank holiday weekend when historically people tend to make the most of the holiday period be it travelling, socialising or barbecuing with family and friends.

"During this period, we urge our communities to be extra vigilant as they go about their business, as regrettably the number of SWFRS staff expected to make a protest is high and will also include operational staff.

"This reduction in resources will mean SWFRS will not be able to provide the same high level of response to fires and other emergencies and as such life critical incidents will be responded to as a priority."

ROUTE 66 JUMBLE

ALL are welcome to a jumble sale in aid of local charity Route 66 at Peterston Village Hall on Saturday, May 17, from 10am.

The Route 66 Appeal is a progressive charity aiming to raise money for young people with life-limiting conditions, and a short life expectancy in Wales.

It helps sick 16 – 30 year olds live life to the full for their limited number of years and also provides specialist medical and practical support.

Funding is difficult for these young people and

often help from Route 66 is the key to their happiness. So please come along to support its founders in their attempt to improve services.

You can find out more about the Route 66 Appeal via Twitter – connect to @route66projects.

Any help you can give will benefit these young people who live everyday life with huge challenges and who would just like to do the things that other young people take for granted.

www.justgiving.com/victoria-lidstone

Gina Groom
07968 24 78 23

Craft fair helps the 'Bullies Out' charity

AFTER enjoying its first year celebration on April 5, when many visitors were able to share the delicious cake provided, Enfys Craft Fairs starts its second year on Saturday May 3 at St Ffransis, Millennium Hall, Park Road, Barry.

A spokeswoman said: "The fair has many exciting local crafts, hot drinks, and snacks to buy and enjoy; entry is free and open to visitors from 10am to 4pm.

"The charity for April, Velindre

cancer hospital, was pleased to raise over £100 selling the knitted chicks with a chocolate egg inside; £55 was also raised for Velindre from a themed cake made, donated and raffled by Kathy Hinton of West End Cakes.

"The charity for May 3 craft fair will be 'Bullies Out', founded by Linda James in May 2006.

"Bullies Out is a time-limited, solution-focused anti-bullying service which provides just that."

For more information, contact Beryl on 01446 418695, or Cyril on 01446 400149.



Top volunteer Gay a guest at No 10!



Gay Fifield with Alun Cairns at No 10.

VALE resident Gay Fifield joined Alun Cairns MP on a visit to Number 10 Downing Street, in honour of her outstanding contribution as a volunteer in the community.

Mr Cairns nominated Mrs Fifield to attend the reception in recognition of her dedication to serving her community. She runs a number of

community initiatives from the Age Connect (formerly Age Concern) shop on Holton Road, Barry, which includes the Friends and Neighbours group. Mrs Fifield also ran the Barry Hospital League of Friends for many years.

"I was so pleased to nominate Gay for this reception. The Prime Minister hosted the event and it was a lovely evening," the MP reported.

"Gay is a hard-working individual whom I have met on several occasions at Age Connect's senior health shop on Holton Road and the friendship group she runs for people over 60.

"She is an inspiration and this goes a small way to recognising her

hard work and service to the community. There is no doubt that so many benefit from Gay's support. Without her involvement, there would be a significant number of older people who would be isolated."

Mrs Fifield said: "I had a lovely time and had an opportunity to chat to the Prime Minister. We talked about Barry specifically, and the importance of community groups.

"He also recalled his many visits to Barry and said that he was looking forward to bringing the US President to Wales later this year for the NATO Summit.

"He pointed out that a serving US President has never visited Wales before."

Wild boars on the loose in Maesteg!

IN 1998, newspapers around the UK were captivated by the tale of the 'Tamworth Two' - a pair of porkers who escaped from an abattoir near Malmesbury, Wiltshire.

There was even a movie - released in 2004 - although it was hardly a blockbuster. So, what are the

chances of the 'Llangynwyd 42' becoming famous?

At the time of writing, 42 wild boar (23 adults and 19 'boarlets') are on the loose in the Maesteg area after fences were cut at a farm in Llangynwyd.

South Wales Police are warning that although the animals are not an immediate threat to public safety, they may charge anyone who tries to approach them, as the boars will be disorientated, confused and are not used to being out of their pens.

Inspector Paul Thomas said: "These animals are recognised as posing a potential threat. People should take as much care as possible.

"We are investigating the criminal damage and the release of dangerous wild animals, which can carry a sentence in prison. "Six people have been arrested in connection to this incident and are currently in police custody pending further investigation."

A police spokesperson said that the owner of the farm holds a dangerous

animals licence and had the necessary fencing in place to prevent escapes.

Wild boars are usually nocturnal, foraging in early morning or late afternoon and evening.

Speaking on the radio, BBC Wales naturalist Iolo Williams said that the animals were nervous and were difficult to find once they found a suitable area of woodland.

He recounted that he had once taken a BBC crew to the Forest of Dean, where wild boar are well established, and it had taken three days to get one of the animals on camera.

He added that boar in the Forest of Dean stay on the English side of the border, because the Welsh Government has a 'shoot to kill' policy.

• Any sightings should be reported to South Wales Police on 101 or alternatively ring Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information.

Top chef will mark Topstak anniversary

WOODSTOVE and interiors specialist, Topstak, is celebrating the first anniversary of the opening of its new showroom in the Vale of Glamorgan, with a special open day on May 10, from 10am - 5pm.

One of the key attractions of the day will be a series of exciting and informative cooking demonstrations by top chef Steven Evans, who trained at Nigel Haworth's Michelin-starred restaurant, Northcote.

Steven will be carrying out the demos on Topstak's Esse range cookers, located upstairs in the Gallery Cafe; and will also be showing the public how to create fabulous meals on the innovative Esse Fire Stone outdoor oven.

The Big Green Egg Barbecue system caused a stir when it was launched last year, as it is really easy to control and can be used all year round.

On May 10, Topstak will be giving customers the opportunity to sample some delicious beer can chicken cooked on this intriguing smoke-free

ADVERTISING PROMOTION

barbecue system that is used by many Michelin-starred chefs.

And, of course, there will be the opportunity to sample Topstak's fabulous home-made cakes in the Gallery Cafe.

Plus, there's the famed Topstak stove selection, interior specialities such as designer kitchens, beautiful lights and stylish cookware.

"We are looking forward to seeing our many existing customers, and meeting new visitors who want to see what we offer," says Topstak director, Adam Pedersen.

"The open day will provide an opportunity for customers to see our full range, which includes many new products.

The cooking demos, we hope, will provide visitors to the showroom with helpful and interesting tips."

Topstak - 01446 771 567 - www.topstak.co.uk.

Enfys Craft fair helps 'Bullies Out' charity

AFTER enjoying its first year celebration on April 5, when many visitors were able to share some delicious cake, Enfys Craft Fairs starts its second year this Saturday, May 3, at St Ffrancis, Millennium Hall, Park Road, Barry.

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over £100 by selling the knitted chicks with a chocolate egg inside; £55 was also raised for Velindre from a themed cake made, donated and raffled by Kathy Hinton of West End Cakes.

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Bullies Out is a time-limited, solution-focused anti-bullying service which provides just that.

For more information, contact Beryl on 01446 418695, or Cyril on 01446 400149.

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INSPIRING THE VALE: New grants available for young entrepreneurs



YOUNG entrepreneurs up to the age of 30 in the Vale of Glamorgan, are being given the chance to secure a grant of up to £3,000 to launch their own business. Over £60,000 is available during the coming year.

'Inspiring the Vale Bursaries' led by Creative Rural Communities, the Vale of Glamorgan Council's rural regeneration initiative, has been re-opened to provide assistance to young people looking to implement their ideas for businesses or community enterprises.

The project began originally between 2008 and 2011, supporting 23 new businesses – from barbers to photographers and from caterers to those specialising in renewable energy.

Many of those businesses have continued to grow and now

employ staff of their own and the Creative Rural Communities team is hoping to attract new young entrepreneurs to take advantage of the project.

"We are delighted to announce the re-opening of this grant scheme to support new business development across the Vale of Glamorgan," said Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, innovation, planning and transportation.

"The aim of the scheme is to encourage innovation, with an emphasis on support and encouragement and we hope we see many more success stories following in the footsteps of those young people who received funding in the initial phase and are now running successful businesses."

Speaking at a briefing for organisations supporting young people in Barry, Nia Hollins, Senior Rural Regeneration

Officer at Creative Rural Communities, added: "This is a fantastic opportunity for young people living in the Vale of Glamorgan. The chance to secure a bursary can be invaluable to making a business idea a reality."

"Everyone needs help starting out in order to develop. Some of the businesses that received grants through the original project are now employing staff of their own."

"It just goes to show how small projects like this can make a huge difference in the community."

• Grants of up to £3,000 are available to young people, up to the age of 30 living in the Vale of Glamorgan, or have done so in the past and would like to establish a business there.

To find out more about Inspire Vale Bursaries, visit: www.creativeruralcommunities.co.uk

The Stagecoach youngsters sing along with the stars!



'AN evening of movies and musicals' was performed at St David's Hall in Cardiff on Saturday, April 26.

The packed auditorium enjoyed unforgettable performances from Wynne Evans (Welsh tenor, 'Go Compare'), Nathan James (ITV's 'Superstar') Sandra Marvin (Hairspray, Chicago) and Sabrina A loueche (Les Miserables, We Will Rock You).

Alongside this star line-up, students from Stagecoach Theatre

schools in Bridgend, Cowbridge and Cardiff also performed with professionalism and talent.

The 'Performance Troupe' impressed with two show-stopping medleys from *Top Hat* and *Half a Sixpence*, and a further 70 Stagecoach children sang with great energy and skill in the concert choir. All performers were accompanied by conductor and concert producer Matthew J Hampson and his incredible orchestra. A night to remember for all involved both on stage and in the audience. LR

ABOVE:
Performance Troupe ready to perform items from 'Top Hat'.

Bargains in spring fayre

FAMOUS for over 50 years for stalls full of bargains, this year will be no exception at St Paul's spring fayre.

On sale will be toys, books, DVDs and CDs, gifts and cards, home-made cakes, bric-a-brac, sweets, crafts and bottle stall.

There will be a raffle with first prize of £50 and many other prizes.

Doors open on Saturday, May 10 at 2pm at St Paul's Church Hall, St Paul's Avenue, Barry. Admission is 50p and entry for all children is free.

All proceeds from the fayre are to help the continuing work of the Barry Churches of St Paul's and Merthyr Dyfan.

Disney sparkles on Ice!

IT'S for the kids, right? I mean, how much fun can an adult expect to derive from Disney on Ice – an ice-skating interpretation of some of the most successful of Disney's films?

Well, the short answer is: quite a lot actually, but half of the enjoyment is obtained from gazing at your children's faces as they watch the show in wonder – and the other half from watching the show itself.

Disney On Ice presents *Worlds of Fantasy* at Cardiff's Motorpoint Arena, reproduced elements from four of Disney's most successful films from recent years: *Lightning McQueen*, *Mater and the crew of Disney/Pixar's Cars* race across the ice, before we dive into *The Little Mermaid's* enchanting undersea kingdom.

Then there is a visit to the mystical world of Pixie Hollow with Tinker Bell and the Disney Fairies, before the show turns to *Toy Story 3*, where Buzz Lightyear, Woody, Jessie and the rest of the gang escape from over-enthusiastic tots (and the totalitarian regime) at Sunnyside Daycare – and your guides for this journey are none other

than Mickey, Minnie, Donald and Goofy.

Now, your five-year old may well not know who the latter four are, but they will certainly find some of their favourites somewhere, and highlights include Ariel's underworld kingdom being brought to life with skaters using shimmering blue banners to create waves, the cast of *Cars* sliding across the ice, Barbie and Ken skating to sounds of *Kung Fu Fighting* and *Toy Story's* green soldiers dancing to *The Toys Are Back In Town*.

Perhaps the Tinkerbell section is a little long, perhaps the merchandise wasn't that cheap, perhaps £8 is a little too much for a bag of popcorn, but in years to come, will you really remember that or the sparkle in your children's eyes – because there is certainly something here that your child will find magical. RF

THE lucky winners of family tickets to Disney on Ice Worlds of Fantasy at Cardiff's Motorpoint Arena were: Mrs T Burton, Corntown; Reese Convery, Barry; Mrs L Reid, Llantwit Major; and Kerry Batchelor, Barry.

• Congratulations to the winners. Watch out for more exciting competitions in The GEM!

www.swoosh. me.uk needs YOU!

WWW.SWOOSH.M E.UK, the youth information and advice site for the Vale, is looking for new editorial group members.

Swoosh, an online channel offering information, advice and guidance for all young people aged 11-10-25, is part of the National Information and Advice Service in Wales called CLICOnline. Local county websites are being developed as part of the 'All Wales' network to share information and gain support and empower young people to express themselves. om.

The website is also supported by the Welsh Government.

Part of the Swoosh website is to have a Swoosh editorial group of interested young people who can steer the website and content. This group meets once a month in person to discuss the running of the websites and act as reporters, gaining skills and experience along the way at the Vibe Experience warehouse, where they are provided with iMac laptops.

Contact the Swoosh Editor, Beckie Jordan on 01446 700622 or email beckie@vibexperience.co.uk

CLASSES FOR ELDERLY

A NEW weekly Pilates class will be starting on Friday, May 9 at Llanblethian Village Hall from 11.30am-12.30pm.

"Each class will cost £4.50 and the chair-based programme helps older people develop strength and enhance their ability to function better in daily life," a spokesperson explained.

New weekly classes in strength and balance for older people will start on May 9 at Penllyn Village Hall from 10am-11am and costs £4.50 per class.

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Free bicycle safety checks for the summer

IF you're organising a summer fete, fun day, health promotion event, bike week or charity ride then Vale Cycle Servicing can attend and carry out free Dr Bike safety checks on all cycles presented along with advice and guidance for getting back in the saddle.

Dr Bike can be added as an additional attraction and to encourage people to travel there by bicycle. If you would like further information or want to book us for your event then please contact us, either by calling on 07812 033 064 or by email to Peter@ValeCycleServicing.co.uk.

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Unemployment falls in the Vale

UNEMPLOYMENT has fallen again in the Vale in the latest figures published by the Office for National Statistics.

The number of unemployed claimants in Vale constituency in March 2014 was 1,929, a claimant count rate of 4.1 per cent. The number of claimants is 339 lower than this time last year.

Local MP Alun Cairns MP said: "This is good news for us locally and shows that although the economic climate is still tough there is cause for gentle optimism."

In Business Update

Llantwit Major entrepreneur is a true business inspiration



Author Alison Stokes (second left) with Layla Bennett of Hawksdrift Falconry (left), NLP therapist Kevin Arnold, Glynn Pegler, CEO of Culture Group and Nathan Dicks of Rewise Learning.

KEVIN ARNOLD from Llantwit Major, who launched his own therapy practice after 30 years of working for BT, is one of a dozen entrepreneurs featured in *Be Your Own Boss*, a new book launched as part of the 2014 Quick Reads series.

Written by Alison Stokes, it is a collection of

inspirational stories from entrepreneurs from all over Wales.

The book was launched in February at The Senedd by Minister for Education, Huw Lewis. Quick Reads are available from bookshops, libraries and online at www.gwales.com.

Kevin retrained in Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) and in 2011 launched Momentum Coaching.

He now offers therapy and coaching sessions to clients to help them overcome a range of issues such as depression, smoking, weight loss and lack of confidence. Sessions can be face to face or via Skype.

You can contact Kevin via www.momentum-coaching.co.uk or on 07766 018831. Quote *The GEM* for exclusive special discount offer.

New Pilates class starts in Barry

A NEW beginners Pilates class starts at 10am on Thursday, June 5 at St Nicholas Hall, Barry; the course runs for six weeks and costs £39.

Classes are led by qualified Pilates teacher Sharon Sylvester, who is also an osteopath working in Barry. Classes are relaxing and welcoming.

Pilates is a gentle form of exercise for the whole body, combining

strength with flexibility, suppleness and better posture. The class is suitable for complete beginners.

Clients say they miss Pilates when there is a break and notice a real difference in the way they feel. Classes are held at St Nicholas Hall, Barry with the exception of the 5.30pm class on Mondays at St Francis Millennium Centre in Barry.

To join or for more information, contact Sharon on 07830 085606 or see www.barrypilates.co.uk.

VOG CAN HELP KEEP THE BURGLARS AT BAY

VOG Fire & Security is a new local security company set up by Matthew Hobbs and Andrew Nash.

We offer great value security to homes and businesses in south Wales and guarantee to beat any like-for-like quotation.

Our main aim is to offer people affordable security, along with providing great service.

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If you can't reuse paper in some way, Dave Chambers and Colin Watkins, from the Vale Council's recycling team ask that residents place such items in the weekly co-mingled recycling collection.

Cabinet member for the environment and visible services, Coun Rob Curtis said:

“Newspaper, magazines, leaflets, scrap paper and various packaging, are some of the examples you can recycle from your kerbside collections.”

“Paper is sorted and water is added until it becomes a clean

pulp and is ready to be turned into a new product.

“The newspapers and magazines sent for recycling are turned back into recycled newsprint; usually in around seven days, and can be printed on again.”

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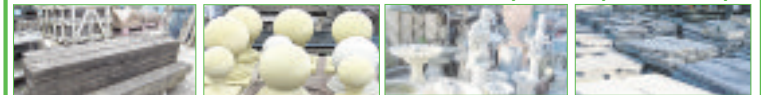


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There are 18 names to find from the following 22...

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I	O	P	T	F	A	D	R	A	E	L	A	H
C	D	G	O	N	N	R	M	R	T	O	M	I
A	O	A	P	U	D	H	A	R	A	F	O	P
L	R	R	S	D	L	S	C	I	G	G	N	S
A	E	D	T	Z	F	A	H	E	R	S	D	A
R	T	E	A	P	O	N	I	R	I	T	Z	W
M	O	N	K	O	W	E	N	S	P	A	K	A
S	U	Y	T	I	M	B	E	R	A	W	A	Y
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Chips Away
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There are 22 companies in the above list - Find 18 and send us the names of the missing 4 businesses!

Normal competition rules apply. Closing date: May 16th 2014 - GOOD LUCK!

South Wales Police remember Brave bobbies who fell in the Great War

THE South Wales Police plan to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War by remembering the serving police officer officers who fell.

Its museum, based at police headquarters in Bridgend, want the public to help gather information about serving officers from predecessor forces who fought and died during World War One.

All stories and information collected, including photographs, letters and newspaper coverage from that time, will be shared with the public via www.south-wales.police.uk/moreaboutus/museum, a spokesperson said.

Volunteer researchers are busy exploring the collection of records held in the force museum and other museums in Wales that house information relating to the police service and the police officers who made the ultimate sacrifice.

They have already unearthed numerous stories, including that of Company-Sergeant-Major Richard Thomas, of Bridgend, who was a former police officer for the Glamorgan Constabulary.

In a news article which featured in the Glamorgan Gazette, on July 21, 1916, we read that his death was announced by Regimental-Sergeant-Major John Thomas, who was his fellow police sergeant at Bridgend.

In a letter to his wife written on July 10 he said: "Just a line to let you know that I am all right. Wish I could say the same about the other boys. Poor Dick Thomas was killed yesterday morning where the big fighting that you read about in the newspapers is going on. Captain

RIGHT:
Company-Sergeant-Major Richard Thomas of Bridgend, formerly of Glamorgan Constabulary, and captain of the Bridgend Rugby Club.



Herdman and he were leading the company into action, and Dick was about the first to be knocked over.

"The captain was wounded. Bob Harris was also killed near the same spot. Trinder was wounded, and is now in hospital. No doubt this will come as a terrible shock to Mrs Thomas.

"Colonel Smith is all right but we are very upset over the loss of Dick. He used to keep us all alive with his jokes."

The 'Bob Harris' referred to (also exceedingly popular amongst the officers and men of the Glamorgan Constabulary) was formerly Sergeant RJ Harris, who was stationed at Aberkenfig and for a time at Nantymoel. Both were in the same battalion of the Welsh regiment.

Sergeant Dick Thomas was also well known as the Bridgend, Mountain Ash and Welsh international rugby forward.

Director of Legal Services Gareth Mudge said: "During the First World War, many serving police officers from the Glamorgan, Swansea, Merthyr Tydfil, Neath and Cardiff Constabularies found themselves serving King and Country.

"We have already unearthed a wealth of information relating to the police officers who served during World War One, which includes those mentioned in dispatches and recognised for acts of gallantry."

Be nice to the nettles!

THE National Botanic Garden of Wales is urging you to 'Be Nice to Nettles' as part of a month-long celebration of plants and health.

'Medicines in May' is a fixture in the garden's event calendar and, this year, it focuses on how our ancestors made use of medicinal plants - right back to the 1600s, when the destiny of the first Middleton Hall was forged in the fortunes of seafaring adventurers trading spices in the East Indies (May 3-4).

The story of the garden is told and includes 1824, when the Regency Middleton estate was up for sale,

following the death of Sir William Paxton, who created many of the features we see in the Garden today (May 10-11).

On Saturday and Sunday May 17-18, take a trail around the garden and meet the people, plants and places associated with the life and times of 1914.

There's a whole month's worth of talks, trails, fun and games. But the sting in this particular tale is 'Be Nice To Nettles' weekend (May 24-25) when you can join modern-day herbalist Nicola Dee Kelly and discover the wonderful herbal uses of *Urtica dioica*.

in an article published on Friday October 22, 1915 for receiving a DCM in the field for acts of conspicuous bravery.

Grant is reported to have taken part in a memorable attack on Loos and also in the storming of Hill 70, where he distinguished himself by several acts of bravery, including bringing to safety a wounded comrade under a perfect hail of shell and machine gun fire.

Gareth Mudge added: "We want to make sure we uncover as much information as possible about our proud history and the many men who served both the force and their country ensuring they are not forgotten."

If you have information or stories you would like to share or have the contact details of someone you think could make a contribution please email us at: policemuseum@south-wales.pnn.police.uk.

Choc full of talent!



The winner, Teghan.



Mark - highly commended.

NICKLEBY'S bookstore has thanked all those who entered its fantastic Easter colour-in competition.

It was a close call deciding who would be the winner of the delicious chocolate egg as there were so many beautiful creations. In the end it was Teghan's (aged 5) wonderful artistic abilities that made her the winner. Close behind Teghan was Henry (aged 6), who came highly commended. Both enjoyed their egg-cellent chocolate prizes!

Bethan Davies

LOCAL MUSEUM KEEPS VISITORS HAPPY



PROVING the value of an all-weather attraction at Barry Island, the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre saw a steady stream of soggy visitors during its Easter Sunday open day.

The centrepiece was a replica police box, which looked like a TARDIS, sat on the station platform.

Event organiser Ade Pitman explained its significance, saying: "Today if you see a police box on the street you instantly think that an episode of Dr Who is being filmed, but the irony is that the TARDIS was designed to look like a police box so that it would blend in."

"Before police radios, there were thousands of these boxes across the country, providing both the police and the public with a means of contacting the emergency services. It

would be interesting to learn where these were sited in Barry.

"With the assistance of a couple of Dr Who impersonators, we were able to educate visitors about this, and show them what a real police box would have looked like, both inside and out.

"It's all about helping our visitors to enjoy learning history."

Showing how to survive the horrible weather conditions of Easter Sunday were cadets from 372 Squadron (Barry) ATC, who regularly volunteer at the museum.

While some cadets experienced and discussed what it was like to wear the uniforms and equipment of the past, fresh from their Duke of Edinburgh expedition, others made a bivouac on the station platform and demonstrated their fieldcraft skills.

Warm inside the station building, local veterans turned authors, Eileen Younghusband

and Alun Higgins, discussed their latest books, while the heritage trains of the Barry Tourist Railway ran a regular service from Barry's Waterfront to the Island.

Ade concluded: "Although the weather meant that visitor numbers were less than expected, our tiny museum and Barry's tourist railway once more provided an interesting attraction for all the family."

"If you haven't yet visited us, the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre is open Wednesday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm, and we'll be open in support of events at the Island throughout the summer. We are also available for group bookings."

To keep up with the latest news and events, follow Barry at War on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BarryAtWarHistoryGroup. You can also contact Ade Pitman on 07930 874161.



ABOVE: Dr Who meets the volunteers at the Wartime Heritage Centre.

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Council progress on waste management

THE Vale Council has been recognised as the third lowest-cost authority in Wales in terms of its waste management services.

A recent waste finance benchmarking project carried out by the Welsh Local Government Association found that the Vale provided a very cost-effective waste management service.

The council had a very low average expenditure of less than £3 per household per week across household waste collection services.

The Vale also ranked as second

highest in Wales for the amount of food waste collected per household, collecting on average a huge 97kg from each household across the year, and eighth highest for dry recycling collection with just short of 12,000 tonnes being collected across the area.

Director of visible services and housing, Miles Punter, said: "Overall expenditure in the Vale has fallen compared to 2011/12 yet our services are continuing to improve and are consistently outperforming other councils in Wales by some way, and it is a testament to the fantastic work of the whole waste management team and the support of our householders."

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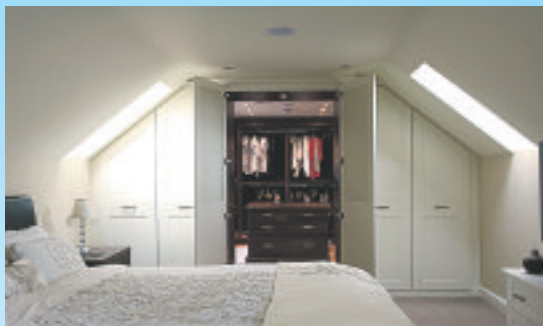
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New exhibition at Art Central



Left to right: Tracey Harding, George Little, Coun Howard Hamilton, Carol Hamilton.

ART CENTRAL, the Vale Council's art gallery, is displaying a collection of work by the artist George Little.

The exhibition was officially opened by the Deputy Mayor for the Vale Council, Coun Howard Hamilton, who said that in his opinion, Art Central was one of the best galleries in south Wales.

He went on to introduce the artist George Little and invited him to give a short speech about his life and work.

The artist captured the attention of the crowd as he spoke of the influences and experiences that shaped his practice.

Little was born in Swansea in 1927; the industrial surroundings of his environment when growing up had a significant influence on his life and working style. This influence can be

easily recognised when walking around the gallery, with walls adorned by imaginative and colourful paintings of derelict copper and iron works, abandoned rolling mills and dockscapes.

The title of the exhibition is 'Industrial Shadows'.

The artist also spoke of his time teaching drawing and painting at the Barry Summer School during the 1960s, which attracted pupils from across the globe.

The exhibition will be on until May 10. The Art Central Gallery in the Town Hall, King's Square, Barry, is open to the public from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Saturday.

Further information about this and future exhibitions at Art Central can be found at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/artcentral.

Dinas charity race night raises £1,200



Rotarians Dennis, Aaron and Paul enjoy a fish supper.

LAST week, Dinas Powys Rotary Club hosted a charity race night in the Village Hall – with the proceeds going to local and national charities.

The race night has run for the past six years and each time has raised hundreds of pounds for charity. This year was no exception with £1,200 raised.

Race organiser Rotarian Simon Watts

said: "I think it all went really well. There was a really good atmosphere, people gave generously on the night and we had some really good fun. I am pleased everyone enjoyed themselves."

Each race took place with big money to be won. The races were sponsored by a company, community group or family and each horse was owned by a family or individual, with the winning owner being presented with a bottle of wine.

The horses in the final race were auctioned off to the highest bidder with the money donated to nominated charities and later, the raffle took place.

Simon added: "I am really happy with the event the money raised and the continued support of the local community."

COLIN JONES

Easter walks benefit from good weather

OVER the Easter weekend, two local walks were enjoyed.

The first was a stroll in the Wenvoe area with Geraint and sheepdog Patch, when 19 ramblers and Pepper the spaniel headed up through pretty paths in Wenvoe wood to St Lythans Church, dedicated to St Bleddian, which was being prepared for Easter Sunday and therefore open.

Hedgerows, trees and fields were exploding with colour as they made their way to the Dyffryn lane, tramping on to the burial chamber at Tinkinswood for lunch, where the rising easterly breeze had a distinct chill.

More fields at the rear of Dyffryn Gardens led on to a busy lane before the familiar Neolithic burial chamber at St Lythans.

These cromlechs, as well as being places to lay the bones of the dead to rest, were also ceremonial sites where people would meet to socialise, barter goods and exchange gifts.

Moving on through fields near Goldsland Wood, passing old lime kilns where the process of making lime to be used on agricultural land took around a week to complete, paths through

NEWS FROM PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

a small wood and across Wenvoe golf course led the group back to Burdonshill and the short descent to Wenvoe village.

Robin and Pepper's choice of a seaside walk at Kenfig on Easter Monday paid off with glorious warm sunshine for the whole day. Leaving the nature reserve to cross sandy paths to the ruined Kenfig Castle, originally built of wood, the leader imparted some of its history to his captive audience of 13 ramblers.

Passing the old railway sidings and crossing the footbridge over the River Kenfig, the coast beckoned and finding a sheltered spot above Kenfig Sands for lunch, views towards Swansea Bay and Mumbles were misty.

They walked up to Sker Point, then along the coast path towards Porthcawl, where restoration of the sea defences are being carried out after the devastation caused to the area by winter storms.

They turned inland to The Rest, founded by James Lewis, a physician

and surgeon whose work with the sick and injured industrial workers in the Llynfi Valley convinced him that a convalescent home close to the sea was needed, resulting in this impressive building.

From Nottage, a quiet track led the group to the yellow painted Sker House, which was a monastic grange some 900 years ago and is now restored and privately owned.

Then a short trek across the golf course led back to their start before a refreshing cool drink was enjoyed at the nearby Prince of Wales Inn to round off the day.

On May 3, meet 8.20am at Cogan Leisure Centre to share transport to Defynnog, followed by a bus trip to Dan yr Ogof and a 12-mile hard linear walk back to Defynnog; contact Phil on 01446 711533.

On May 4, meet 10am at Cogan for a six-mile moderate walk at Radyr and St Fagans; contact Pam on 029 2025 5102.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks.

Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice.

JOY STRANGWARD

AM praises council's parking fine restraint

SOUTH Wales Central AM and Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies, has expressed his concern over the sums generated by Welsh councils from parking charges.

He said that treating parking as a "cash cow" would harm local high streets.

In figures, the Vale Council is shown as the second lowest earner from parking charges in Wales.

The figures were published by the RAC

Foundation, whose analysis of Welsh Government data has shown that Welsh councils generated £30 million last year from parking charges.

The Vale generated £318,000 compared to high earning Cardiff which raised a staggering £6.2 million.

Mr Davies said: "It is somewhat concerning that councils across Wales appear to be generating huge revenue streams through parking charges."

"I appreciate that some of the money collected through charges will be used to improve facilities or to pay for services, but prohibitive prices can

have a damaging impact upon local high streets – particularly given the emerging trend for out of town shopping centres with free parking."

"This may be less of an issue in city-centres like Cardiff but for high streets like Barry and Cowbridge, the availability of reasonably priced parking is essential, especially when public transport connections are often poor."

Mr Davies said he was "pleased that the Vale Council had so far resisted the opportunity to treat parking as a cash cow; a move that would harm local high streets and the wider Vale economy".

AM praises Vale Foodbank volunteers

THE local AM, Jane Hutt, joined Vale Foodbank volunteers at Tesco's in Barry's Highlight Park at the weekend, to praise them for their hard work and to thank shoppers for their donations.

She expressed strong support for the work of the Vale Foodbank, which is "helping vulnerable families and

individuals in our communities across the county".

It was clear that foodbank use in the Vale has been increasing since the first foodbank was started by Coastlands Church.

The most recent distribution centre opened at St Mary's Church in Holton Road, Barry and is open on Friday afternoons.

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR VOTING...

ON Thursday, May 22, European parliamentary elections are taking place across the country.

It's crucial in the run-up to the elections that the public know how to exercise their right to vote. Whether you've already decided who to vote for, or are still thinking about how to cast your vote, there's one vital step you need to take.

You need to register to vote now as time is running out. The deadline for registration is Tuesday, May 6.

Why does this matter? If you're not registered by the deadline then you won't be able to have your say on election day. You must be on the current electoral roll in order to cast a vote.

Our research shows that 44 per cent of people who are not registered to vote mistakenly believe they are. Many people believe that if they are registered to pay council tax then they are automatically registered to vote. This just isn't true.

Registering to vote is free, easy to do and only takes a few minutes. Visit www.abllinmyvote.co.uk and print off a registration form, fill in your details and send it back to the local Electoral Registration Officer. Remember: it's your vote, don't lose it!

GARETH HALLIWELL, Electoral Commissioner, Wales, The Electoral Commission.

Cyfle olaf i gofrestru i bleidleisio ar gyfer etholiadau Mai

DDYDD Iau, Mai 22 mae etholiadau Senedd Ewrop yn cael eu cynnal ledled y wlad. Rhowch unrhyw etholiadau perthnasol yn eich ardal.

Mae'n hanfodol yn y cyfnod cyn etholiadau bod y cyhoedd yn gwybod sut i arfer eu hawl i bleidleisio. P'un a'ch bod eisoes wedi penderfynu dros bwy i bleidleisio neu eich bod yn dal yn pendroni sut i bleidleisio, mae un cam hanfodol sydd angen i chi gymryd. Mae angen i chi gofrestru i bleidleisio nawr gan fod amser yn prinhaau. Y dyddiad cau i gofrestru yw dydd Mawrth Mai 6.

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GARETH HALLIWELL, Comisiynydd Etholiadol, Cymru, Y Comisiwn Etholiadol.

MP's blindfold bus journey in Barry

VALE MP Alun Cairns will undertake a blindfold bus ride in Barry on Friday (May 2) courtesy of Guide Dogs Cymru.

The event, starting at Barry Library at 11am, will highlight the problems faced by blind and partially sighted bus users in the Vale, including guide dog owners.

A survey for Guide Dogs last year showed that many blind and partially sighted people in Wales are unable to enjoy the freedom that others take for granted because they find travelling by bus so difficult.

Guide Dogs is making a fresh call for all buses in Wales to feature next-stop audio announcements to help

passengers with sight loss. Without such announcements, blind and partially sighted passengers have to rely on the driver, or people sitting near them, to tell them when they arrive at their stop.

Andrea Gordon, of Guide Dogs Cymru and a guide dog owner herself, said: "Audio announcements on buses make a huge difference to passengers with sight loss. Guide Dogs wants all buses to be Talking Buses, fitted with on-board audio-visual technology which announces bus routes, destinations and next stops."

"We also want more training for bus drivers, so they know how to support passengers who are blind and partially sighted."

'Support the elderly' – RVS

PLEASE support Royal Voluntary Service's Great Brew Break by inviting friends, family or colleagues for a cuppa and a chat this week and make a donation, so we can help more lonely older people stay independent.

Royal Voluntary Service volunteers provide a vital lifeline for older people – whether that's help after a stay in hospital, a visit

LETTER

to a Royal Voluntary Service community centre, or just a simple cuppa and chat at home.

Please visit www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/brewbreak for more information.

SALLY RIVERS, Head of operations for Royal Voluntary Service Cymru, Royal Voluntary Service, Beck Court, Cardiff Gate Business Park, Cardiff CF23 8RP.

SAM'S THE MAN TO INSPIRE YOUNG LOCAL PLAYERS!



Wales captain Sam Warburton (far left) and Herbert R Thomas staff with Cowbridge RFC mini rugby players.

BUDDING rugby players from Cowbridge had the opportunity to meet their Wales rugby idol, Sam Warburton, when he paid a special visit to meet the mini and junior teams from Cowbridge RFC.

The British and Irish Lions and Cardiff Blues back row ace delivered two questions and answer sessions to over 50 players, where they were able to pick up rugby tips and advice.

The event, which took place at the Bear Hotel in Cowbridge, was organised as part of the Cardiff Blues' 'Adopt a Player' programme, which provides every rugby club within the Blues' region with the opportunity to receive player visits directly to their club.

Philip Thomas, partner at Herbert R Thomas estate agents, which sponsors Cowbridge RFC, said: "A number of my nephews play for the junior team, so I was delighted when the club informed us that Sam would be attending a question and answer session in Cowbridge."

"Sam is a true inspiration to all of the players, as he clearly shows how hard work and determination will lead to success."

"At Herbert R Thomas, we have a strong link to rugby and Cowbridge RFC in particular, as many of our colleagues have relatives within the teams."

"All the players had a great evening, as did the parents who attended, and we'd like to thank Sam for taking the time out of his busy schedule to come down and talk to our team. We'd also like to thank the Bear Hotel for their

hospitality."

Sam Warburton said: "It was great to come down to Cowbridge to meet the mini and junior teams. I love Cowbridge. My agent and auntie and uncle live here, so I'm often here."

"I really enjoy getting out into the community as part of the 'Adopt a Player' scheme and doing Q&As is always fun."

"It's interesting to hear the questions the kids have and it's always guaranteed to put a smile on my face."

"When I was in school, former Cardiff RFC player Ben Evans visited us and I remember being really inspired by him. I hope to have had a similar effect on these players."

PHOTOGRAPH by
MIKE WILCOCK



Equine expert Eric stays the (Monmouthshire) course!

RIGHT: Winner Eric Dafydd being congratulated by Steve Cross, captain of the seniors' section at Cottrell Park.

THE Monmouthshire Golf Club, just outside Abergavenny and set against the beautiful scenery of the Usk Valley surrounded by The Blorenge, Sugar Loaf and Skirrid mountains proved the perfect location for the Spring away day for the senior members of Cottrell Park Golf Club, organised by captain of the seniors' section Steve Cross.

Officially opened in 1938 as an 18-hole course and developed over the same ground that once drew large crowds to enjoy the Monmouthshire races, including the famous National Hunt Chase, now firmly established as part of the Cheltenham Festival, this magnificent parkland course is well worth a visit.

It seems ironic therefore to report the first past the post with 39 stableford points to win the captain's Spring away day competition was Eric Dafydd, better known throughout the Vale for his vast knowledge and experience in the equine market.

Runner-up with 38 points was Bill Moore, with Gregor Munro taking third place, also with 38.

In fourth place with 37 was Ray Reakes followed by Brian Pritchard and David Stephenson also with 37 but an inferior back nine.

Steve Charlton hit the longest drive of the day on the selected 18th hole, while nearest the pin on the par three holes were Chris Stanlake, Edward Knott, Eric Dafydd, Mike Quick, Ray Rakes and Terry

Scott.

The winners of the team prize with 115 points were Peter Archer, Edward Knott, Brian Pritchard and Bill Moore. In second place with 105 were Norman Cole, Mike Quick, David Hopkins and John Clarke and in third place with 104 were Graham Kellett, Eric Dafydd, Wyn Pryce-Jones and Aubrey Bowen.

TMCC

Cowbridge lift the Barry Cup!



Cowbridge Town FC won a dramatic match with Cardiff Airport on penalties last Sunday at Jenner Park, and in the process lifted the Barry Cup for the first time in their history. Here are a selection of images from the day.



Vale golfer heads junior order of merit

TIM HARRY (Vale Resort) continued his excellent start to the season with a tied eighth place finish at the Peter McEvoy Trophy at Copt Heath.

Harry returned rounds of 78, 72, 74 and 68 and was closely followed by Joshua Davies (Celtic Manor) who was a shot further back in 12th place with rounds of 70, 73, 76 and 74.

Harry gains 44.25 Hugh James points for his finishing position and 50 for making the cut (total of 94.25) and Davies 36 and 50 for a total of 86.

Trubshaw Cup JACK DAVIDSON (Llanwern) ended in second place and best placed junior at the Trubshaw Cup with rounds of 79, 73, 73 and 71 at Tenby and Ashburnham Golf Clubs.

Davidson was closely followed by Tim Harry (Vale Resort) who finished two shots behind in third place with rounds of 80, 80, 69 and 69.

Davidson opens his Hugh James account with 120 points; Harry retains his overall lead with an additional 80.

Hugh James Order of Merit AFTER the Trubshaw Cup:

First, Tim Harry (Vale Resort) 253.25; second, Joshua Davies (Celtic Manor) 181.6; third, Jack Davidson (Llanwern) 120; fourth, Lewis Sanges (Celtic Manor) 100; fifth, Thomas Froom (Nefyn) 60; sixth, Kyle Harman (Radyr) 50.



Barry Seconds beaten in final

BARRY 2nd XV ended their season as they travelled to Pentryrch on Thursday night to face Cardiff Metropolitan University in the East District Cup final.

With the daunting task of facing such a quality side, who have won the cup in the past seven years and have won every single game this season, coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow brought back Tony Heard in the front row, Einar Scott at outside half and Glynn Jones in the pack.

Luke Bounds, fresh from his try scoring return on the weekend, was included on the bench.

Barry did not get off to a great start, as the holders scored from their first attack of the game, a simple move in midfield piercing the green-and-whites' defence to score under the posts.

Roared on by a large travelling support, Barry rallied themselves and a series of forward drives saw Cardiff Met fall foul of the referee's whistle,

but Einar Scott was unable to kick the three points from a difficult angle.

Cardiff Met then showed their class when their number 10 executed a perfect cross-field kick to see their winger collect before setting up a try in the corner.

More tries came and went as the holders justified their reputation, but Barry rallied on, aided by some superb tackling by Tiernan Scott, Glynn Jones and John Miles.

The loudest cheer of the day came late in the first half when a superb break from Einar Scott saw him put Ethan Dix in to score a memorable try. Scott himself added the extras.

Now showing more confidence, Barry tried to take the game to Cardiff Met and more aggressive approach play by the forwards and backs alike saw Joel Williams chip ahead, Dix chasing, but narrowly missing out on touching down in the corner.

Barry brought on fresh legs after the interval in an attempt to live with the cup holders' pace and finesse, and there were good contributions in

defence by Mephram, Hewitson and Bounds.

Ultimately, however, a side of Cardiff Met's quality did find gaps in the tiring Barry defence and more tries came and went, especially late on when the green-and-whites were down to 14 men following the sin binning of Jason Thomas.

It was the predicted result – a handsome win by the seven-time winners, but Barry can leave the pitch with their head held high as they fronted up to quality opposition and showed superb attitude and commitment throughout the 80 minutes.

The management would like to thank all the players and supporters who made the journey up to create such a rousing atmosphere. The squad will hope to take the cup final memories onwards towards next season.

Team: T Scott; Adams, D Williams, Dix, Hamonda; E Scott, J Williams; Hosking, Vidal, Heard; G Jones, Case; J Jones, Miles, Rolfe ©. Replacements: Thomas, McTavish, Goodfellow, Hewitson, Mephram, Bounds, Flynn. Man of the match: Case. KC

ON AND OFF THE TURF WITH BRIAN LEE

Gale Force Oscar storms home at Chepstow!

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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Telephone 07791 228684
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GALE FORCE OSCAR, a nine-year-old brown gelding qualified with the Llangeinor Hunt, stormed home a very easy winner of the Dunraven Bowl Novices Hunter Chase at Chepstow Racecourse leaving a trail of well beaten horses in his wake.

Confidently ridden by leading Welsh rider John Mathias, Gale Force Oscar - described in the racecard by Timeform as a 'prolific winning Irish pointer' - finished an official 20 lengths ahead of Supreme Regime (Joe Knox) with Doc Wells (Nick Williams) a further four lengths away in third spot. Patricktom Boru (Evan David) was fourth.

Gale Force Oscar, who won four races on the bounce when trained in Ireland, landed a big gamble and was returned the 5-2 favourite.

John Mathias, who hails from Tenby, is bred into the sport. His grandfather Fred Mathias and father Philip were both leading amateur riders and the one thing he has in common with his father is that they are both recipients of the Wilkinson Sword Trophy, which is awarded to the leading riders under 21.

Philip was awarded his in 1982 and John his in 2007. John rode himself into the record books in 2011 when booting home six winners at the Tyviside, a feat never achieved before or since.

He has ridden well over 100 winners between-the-flags and

has come close on a couple of occasions to winning the national point-to-point riders' championship.

On dismounting in the winners' enclosure, winning rider Mathias told me: "He had some good form in Ireland and he qualified for the race when finishing second to Chosen Milan at the Curra & Llangibby at Howick in March."

Winning owner/trainer Lee Power, a former professional footballer and chairman and owner of Swindon Football Club, has a point-to-point yard in the Port Talbot area.

Unfortunately, he missed see his horse win Wales' most prestigious point-to-pointers' race as he was in Portugal.

Mr Power owns the Saturday Racing Plus newspaper which also carries a point-to-point supplement.

'BRACEY' GREAT SUPPORTER OF WELSH RACING

The sponsor of the prestigious Dunraven Bowl Novices' Hunter Chase held at Chepstow Racecourse last Friday was David Brace OBE, the group chairman, founder and the inspiration behind Pyle-based Dunraven Windows.

'Bracey', as he is popularly known, who owns and manages the Dunraven Stud Farm at Pyle near Bridgend, has been a great supporter of the Welsh Turf, be it under-the-flags or between the full rules of the sport.

In June 2012, he was awarded hunt-racing's highest honour - the Point-To-Point Racing Company's Jim Mahon



Industry Award. The award was created to recognise those who have made an outstanding contribution to point-to-pointing and hunter chasing and Maesteg-born David was without doubt a worthy recipient.

A bigger honour was to come his way when in November 2012 he received a letter from 10 Downing Street informing him that he had been recommended for an OBE for his charity and business work.

Without the support of his wife Dawn and sons Matthew and Andrew,

David admits he could not have pursued his horse racing and horse breeding activities.

As a young man, David worked alongside his father Evan at the local coal-mine. Little wonder then that it was his beloved father who had the biggest influence on his life.

A long time member of the Llangeinor Hunt, David has owned, bred and trained many winners over the years and he had the pleasure of seeing his Moon Catcher win at both Cheltenham and Aintree, the spiritual homes of steeplechasing.

During the 2012/13 hunt-racing season, he saddled 21 winners (six more than his nearest rivals) to land the National Leading Point-To-Point Owners Championship.

This season, he is already leading his rivals a merry gallop, and on Saturday, Cock Of The North was successful for him at the Farmers Bloodhounds fixture at Whitfield. Partnered by Sean Bowen, son of leading Welsh trainer Peter Bowen, Cock Of The North was his 13th winner of the season.

BRIAN LEE

Brynhill golf club results

BRISTOL Cup qualifier results 2014:

1 Julian Hopkins & Glyn Morris 65; 2 Lee Price & Mickey Perry 66; 3 Kevin Perry & Steve Jones 67; 4 Kevin Williams & Mike Moore 67; 5 Wayne Adams & Sam Preston 67; 6 John Hardin & James Ham 68; 7 Alistair Woodward & Richard Bond 68; 8 Ryan Keedwell & Dan Peters 68; 9 John Wakefield & Elliot Cayton 68; 10 Carl Williams & Matthew Thomas 68; 11 Mark McCafferty & Joe Brookman 69; 12 Aeron Smith & Nathan Clissold 70; 13 Simon Pringle & Scott Warne 70; 14 Scott Bowman & Chris Phillips 70; 15 Mike Moore & Elliot Palmer 70; 16 Gareth Tinnuche & Steve Price 70.

MATCHPLAY DRAW

Julian Hopkins & Glyn Morris v Gareth Tinnuche & Steve Price; John Wakefield & Elliot Cayton v Ryan Keedwell & Dan Peters; Wayne Adams & Sam Preston v Aeron Smith & Nathan Clissold; Simon Pringle & Scott Warne v Kevin Williams & Mike Moore; Kevin Perry & Steve Jones v Scott Bowman & Chris Phillips; Mark McCafferty & Joe Brookman v John Hardin & James Ham; Alistair Woodward & Richard Bond v Carl Williams & Matthew Thomas; Mike Moore & Elliot Palmer v Lee Price & Mickey Perry.

CS

Coach role for local team

THE Vale Ladies & Girls Football Club has an exciting opportunity for a new coach to play a key role in the development of its junior girls section for the 2014/15 season.

We are currently the largest club in the south Wales Women's & Girls league with over 100 active players with ages from seven to full senior adults.

The club are now looking for a dedicated coach to manage our under-10 section for the new season. Previous coaching experience is desirable but not essential and coach education courses are funded by the club.

A driving licence and access to a car is essential given the nature of the role as games take place on a Sunday morning across the south Wales area.

Anyone interested in this excellent opportunity should email their contact details to: valegirlsfc@gmail.com or contact Gino Esposito on 07772 022435.

LW

Romilly in action

THE bowls season opened at Romilly Bowls Club on Saturday with both the club side and 'A' team having games against Barry Athletic and The Murch respectively.

The club side played the Athletic in a friendly at the Island which was played in good spirit and with the forecast rain holding off, a close game was won by Romilly by three shots, 62-59.

This match gave the opportunity for both sides to loosen their arms in readiness for this Saturday's opening games in the Carruthers Shield.

Romilly 'A' team were involved in a more serious fixture, facing the Murch at Romilly Park in a SVLA match. The game was won by the Murch 58-72, but the Murch, thinking the game was a friendly, played a number of first team players giving them the overall advantage, winning on three of the four racks.

This Saturday the Romilly club side entertain Kenfig Hill in the Carruthers Shield at The Park at 2.30pm, and the 'A' team travel to Llantwit Major for another SVLA match.

FP

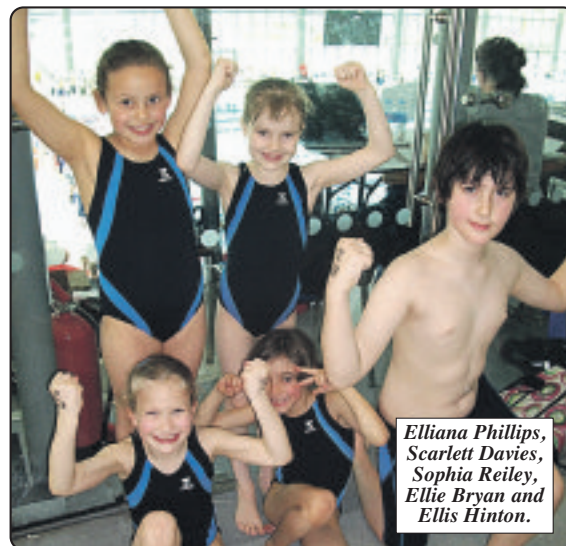
COMPETITION SUCCESS FOR RHOOSE LIFEGUARDS AS INDIVIDUALS SHINE



Nipper Girls!



*Emily Parker
and Kiera
Harris.*



*Elliana Phillips,
Scarlett Davies,
Sophia Reiley,
Ellie Bryan and
Ellis Hinton.*



*James Ashman and Jay
and Ben Cummings.*



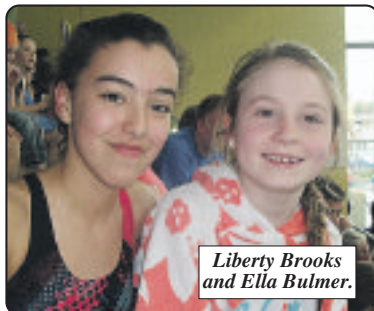
*Francesca
Hopkins and
Alex Moignard.*



The masters team.



*Medal Winners
Simon Parker
and Karen
O'Donoghue-
Harris.*



*Liberty Brooks
and Ella Bulmer.*



*Alice Connolly
and Evie Wong.*



*Members of the
Nippers girls
team.*



*Katie Simms and
Elena Gibson.*



*Sam Jenkins and
Jai Gerrish.*

FOLLOWING a successful series of competition dates at the Welsh Stillwaters earlier in the year, the end of March and early April saw the Nipper, Junior and Masters teams from Rhoose Lifeguards compete in the British Surf Lifesaving Stillwater Championships.

Competing against teams from across England and Wales, held over two consecutive weekends, this year the competition was held at Hengrove Park Centre, Bristol for the Masters and locally at Cardiff International Pool for the Nipper and Junior teams.

Masters team: The competition began with the Masters travelling to Bristol on March 29. With the competition held over the course of the Saturday it was a busy day with many competitors taking part in four individual races as well as relays and rope throw events.

The Masters team put in some fantastic individual performances with gold medals awarded to Karen O'Donoghue-Harris, Sian Frith and Darron Corden.

The male team achieved second place and the female finished in third place. The Masters secured a rewarding overall second place out of the 16 clubs competing, matching individual medal winners: Karen O'Donoghue-Harris – silver Manikin Carry with Fins, gold Manikin Tow with Fins. Sian Frith – gold Obstacle Race, gold Manikin Carry, gold Manikin Carry with Fins, gold Manikin Tow with Fins. Richard Davidson – bronze Obstacle Race, bronze Rescue Medley. Simon Parker – bronze Manikin Carry with Fins, silver Rescue Medley. Steve Baker – bronze Manikin Carry, bronze Rescue Medley. Darron Corden – gold Obstacle Race, gold Manikin Carry, gold Manikin Carry with Fins, gold Rescue Medley.

Nipper team: Saturday, April 5 saw the turn of the Rhoose Nippers team to compete, this year at Cardiff International Pool.

The Nipper team are the youngest competitors of the club and after some 'first race nerves' the competition got off to a great start with all Nippers thoroughly enjoying the events.

Nearly all of the Nipper team had competed at the recent Welsh Championships and were keen to match or better their times from the previous competition.

With many of the age groups having between 40 and 60 competitors, spread over many heats, the Nippers achieved some very good positions and personal best times.

Special congratulations to Evie Wong who won bronze in the Flipper Race, silver in the Manikin Race and gold in the Board Race.

The Nippers achieved came away with an overall position of ninth place out of the 23 teams with the girls' category achieving a very respectable sixth position.

Junior team: Finally it was the turn of the Juniors to compete on Sunday, April 6, again at Cardiff International Pool, for what again was to be a packed day of events.

With co-ordinator Steve Baker away, team member Kathryn Gardner led the team of Juniors on the day.

As with the Nippers the previous day, many of the Juniors had a very high number of competitors in their races but secured some very confident places in the individual and relay events.

The Junior team would like to thank everyone who helped on the day with time keeping and other poolside duties.

The Junior team finished the day with an overall position of tenth out of the 24 clubs competing. Well done to the Junior team!

Overall teams: Nipper team: Ellie Bryan, Elliana Phillips, Scarlett Davies, Sophia Reiley, Lena Davies, Elena Gibson, Xantia Hobrough, Katie Sims, Moli Lyons, Evie Wong, Ella Bulmer, Eloise Strange, Yasmin Davies, Francesca Hopkins, Alice Connolly, Alex Moignard, Kiera Harris, Emily Parker, Brooke Peterson, Liberty Brooks, Helen Jenkins, Jay Cummings, Robert Grice, James Ashman, Cai Beasley, Ellis Hinton, Jamie Jenkins, Ben Cummings, Jai Gerrish, Sam Jenkins, Cian Davies, Taran Downton, Morgan Jenkins, Oliver Wong.

Junior team: Finn Rees Alex Parry, Jason Grice, Rhys Gardner, Ellie Peterson, Kelsea Peterson, Kathryn Gardner, Lauren Blake, Kirby Redrup, Maisie James, Emily Baker, Sara Phillips.

Masters team: Dominic Lee, Richard Davidson, Darron Corden, Steve Baker, Simon Parker, Karen O'Donoghue-Harris, Sian Frith, Sarah Bryant.

Rhose Lifeguards Club would like to thank all of the parents and coaches who have given up their time at the competitions and training sessions over the winter months.

Thanks also to all of those from the club who regularly help with time keeping and other duties – we couldn't attend these competitions without you!

The GB Stillwater Championship brings a close to the indoor pool-based competitions for the club but very soon the beach and sea training and summer competitions get under way.

Next up is the Rhose Surf Ski Race which takes place at Font-y-Gary on Sunday, May 11 with racing starting at around noon onwards for all those who like to see some first class paddlers competing – further details can be found on the Rhose Lifeguards website www.rhooselifeguards.co.uk

REGIONAL AM IS 'FUMING' OVER... Council snub on schools consultation

A regional AM has asked Education Minister Huw Lewis to intervene in the proposed closure of Tynyrheol Primary School in Llangeinor.

Byron Davies says he is "unhappy" about the way in which Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has handled the consultation over its proposal to close the school and also Betws Primary School – replacing them with one new school to be built on the existing school site at Betws.

Llangeinor parents organised a petition, submitting hundreds of letters of objection and marching on the council offices.

Mr Davies, a Conservative regional AM, is "fuming" that BCBC did not inform him of their plans.

"I have written to Chief Executive Darren Mephram asking him to explain why myself and my fellow Conservative regional AM Suzy Davies were ignored by the council, although we are statutory consultees. It is my understanding that the two other regional AMs were also ignored although Ogmores constituency AM Janice Gregory was consulted.

"The Assembly has been in existence for 15 years and it is high time that officers understood its structure of constituency AMs and Regional AMs. We have equal powers, responsibilities and rights and we should all have been notified of the proposal.

'I missed the deadline'

"AS a result of their failure, I missed the deadline to submit my objections, which I have sent in by letter this week. I will also be reporting the council to the Ombudsman over this breach.

"It is simply not good enough. People have a right to be properly represented by those they democratically elect to office, regardless of which party they represent."

Mr Davies is also asking Mr Lewis to call in the proposed closure to deal with it himself.

"Although school closure rules have changed from the autumn of last year, councils can only make these decisions for themselves if they abide by the Welsh Government School Organisation Code 2013, which lays down how they are to proceed.

"When I met parents at the school recently, I was shocked to see just how many breaches of this code the parents have uncovered.

"There are things which the council should have done but which it failed to do and information it should have provided which it has not.

"Therefore, in my view, the whole process is fatally flawed and the cabinet should not be making a decision to close either of these schools as that decision is based on inadequate or inaccurate information."

Mr Davies has sent detailed objections to the council which list alleged technical breaches of the code. He has also asked Mr Lewis to consider these breaches and intervene to decide this issue personally.

"Apart from these technical breaches of the code, parents have put forward compelling arguments to retain their school in Llangeinor," he added.

"These include the high standards of education now being offered to their

children. The council has been unable to quantify how putting their children into a more modern building will of itself improve standards. There has been no explanation about how this will happen.

"The council has put forward no evidence to prove that the new school would provide either an equivalent or better standard of education than children currently enjoy.

"The council has also failed to justify the closure on cost grounds because it has no figures as yet about what the new school will cost to run. There is no staffing structure in place and no governing body or headteacher to make any decisions so the whole thing is unquantifiable although the code demands that the council includes figures to justify the financial basis of its plans. This it cannot do.

"Parents are rightly worried that their children will be disadvantaged by the move to Betws because they will be excluded from school breakfasts and after school activities unless they have transport.

"School bus times are likely to deposit the children after breakfasts have been served and take them home before any after school activities take place. But children in Betws will be able to participate as they will live within walking distance of the school.

"The council has also failed to state how it will find the £3m it must pay itself for the new school as match funding for the £3m coming from Welsh Government.

"That is another breach of the code as the source of capital funding must be revealed in the consultation document.

"Parents are also challenging the almost £400,000 cost of upgrading their school which the council has quoted.

"They called in their own surveyors and say that the cost of repairs is about £150,000 and accuse the council of inflating the repair bill as an argument for closure, which is also against the code.

"It looks as if the council has attempted to drive a horse and cart through the regulations. I hope they are not allowed to get away with it."

A BCBC spokesman responded: "The code and the legislation covering school consultation are both open to interpretation as neither specifically lists regional AMs as being among statutory consultees.

"However, the council has agreed to ensure that regional AMs are included in all future consultations of this type."

A lovely boy waiting to bounce into your life!

BOUNCER is a three-year-old cross-breed, a lovely boy who does need time to get to know and trust people.

He's active and loves his walks, housetrained and fine to be left for a few hours. Bouncer has improved with us so much in the last couple of months and now enjoys going for long walks with our volunteers.

He is looking for an active adult-only home and would need an owner who can handle large breeds. Bouncer needs to continue with his basic training especially socialisation. He is a fun and cheeky character and is one of the staff favourites!

If you have room in your home and heart for Bouncer, please call us on 01656 725219, or pop into Dogs Trust Bridgend, 12pm-4pm every day except Monday, and open late til 7.30pm on Wednesdays.

Linda Feagan,
Supporter Relations Officer, Bridgend



Cadets join RAF Wings Appeal

CADETS from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron RAF Air Cadets joined cadets from Porthcawl, Bridgend and Pencoed, at the Royal Air Force Association Club in Porthcawl for their annual Wings Collection presentation night.

Cadets from the local squadrons collect each year; you may have seen them on the streets or in local shops with their collecting cans.

The Wings Appeal is the RAF Association's on-going fundraising campaign that runs throughout the year. It is the fundraising arm of the Association and helps raise the vital funds needed to support serving and ex-RAF personnel and their families.

The cadets collect during the Wings Week which is held in September each year. At the presentation night, the highest collector from each squadron was presented with a trophy, Cadet Corporal Dixon from

Kenfig Hill receiving the trophy for the highest amount collected by a single cadet of £400. Kenfig Hill Air Cadets also won the Andrew Maund Cup for the second year running. This cup is presented to the Squadron which collects the most for the appeal.

Cadets from all squadrons would like to thank the public for their continuing generosity in supporting this appeal each year.

Lindsay Thomas

Diabetes UK seeks local volunteers



COME AND JOIN US!

DIABETES UK is looking for energetic volunteers to support collection weekends at the Tesco Extra and Superstore in Bridgend.

The Big Collection weekend will take place in Tesco stores on June 13, 14 and 15, to raise hundreds of thousands of pounds for Diabetes UK, as part of the major national charity partnership between the two organisations.

Diabetes UK is recruiting 4,800 volunteers throughout the UK and is looking for 50 collection volunteers in the Bridgend area to support the Big Collection weekend locally.

Volunteers can select morning or afternoon sessions running from 9am-6pm on June 13 and 14, and 10am-4pm on June 15.

Diabetes UK Cymru's Director Dai

Williams said: "We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers in Bridgend with a desire to help raise lots of money for a fantastic cause.

"The weekend takes place at the end of Diabetes Week and it is a great way to inform customers about diabetes while raising money for Diabetes UK.

"We are proud that 9 out of 10 people who volunteered for the Big Collection weekend last year said they would volunteer again, which means they really must have enjoyed it.

"We look forward to another fun weekend at the next collection in June."

Hannah Jarrett, from Bridgend, said: "I volunteered for the Big Collection at the Bridgend store and it was a great experience.

"I enjoyed meeting other volunteers and it was good to speak to people who already knew about diabetes and hear their stories but also to help educate others and raise the public's awareness of the condition.

"If you are thinking of volunteering I would recommend taking part in the Big Collection weekend."

The money raised will go towards supporting the 3.8 million people with diabetes in the UK and help people at high risk of Type 2 diabetes reduce their risk of the condition.

The Big Collection weekend in October 2013 raised over £380,000 for Diabetes UK, over £25,000 of this was in Wales.

If readers are interested in volunteering for the Big Collection weekend, contact Diabetes UK Cymru on 029 2066 8276 or email BigCollection@diabetes.org.uk

Union calls on BCBC to give join other councils and give pay rise

MEMBERS of UNISON handed over a petition to BCBC on Monday, calling on it to reverse the decision to withdraw from national pay bargaining.

The petition, which contains almost 2,000 signatures, forms part of UNISON's campaign opposing the council's plans to withhold any pay increase for its workforce this year, apart from a 1 per cent rise for the two lowest pay grades.

UNISON invited the leader of the council, Coun Nott, to receive the petition, but the invitation was declined. Jane Iles, UNISON Bridgend branch secretary, said: "If Bridgend council press ahead with these plans, they will inflict a poverty-filled future on so many of their workforce, as well as opening the door to regional pay."

"The Bridgend council workforce will become the lowest paid in Wales as a direct consequence of this decision, and our members deserve better.

"UNISON will not back down on this matter. We will continue to fight for the

workforce in Bridgend, and we urge the council to urgently rethink their dangerous and unfair pay proposals," she vowed.

A Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) spokesman said: "The proposal to instigate a pay freeze for all but the lowest paid council employees has arisen because of the need to deliver savings of £36m in the next few years, and because approximately 68 per cent of the council's overall net budget of £255m currently relates to staff salary costs.

"Obviously this is a difficult choice to make as it means stepping away from national pay negotiations, but the authority believes that by doing so we will be able to limit job losses as much as possible, while continuing to provide and protect essential services.

"With senior managers included in the plans, councillors have also been asked to forego the one per cent increase that has already been nationally approved for elected members across Wales.

"The authority met with Unison, GMB and Unite earlier this week to discuss the proposals further."

**You can find your GEM online at:
www.bridgend-today.co.uk**

Gymnasts are ready for British finals

TWELVE young girls from Porthcawl will represent their schools and Wales in the British Gymnastics Schools finals in Stoke-on-Trent this month.

In February, children from Nottage Primary (under-11) and Porthcawl Comprehensive (under-14) were selected to compete in the annual Welsh Gymnastics Schools competitions.

These normally start with a regional competition, with the winners going on to the Welsh finals in Sophia Gardens, Cardiff.

The winning team or individual moves on to compete in the British finals.

In the regional tumble and vault competition, Nottage Primary entered several teams of both boys and girls and came away with both girls and boys team champions and had a second girls team placing third.

All the boys were selected, along with three of the girls who placed individually to move onto the next round and compete in the Welsh finals.

Porthcawl Comprehensive entered two girls teams, again taking team gold and team bronze.

The four members of the winning team, who all placed individually, were also selected to move on to compete in the Welsh finals where Nia Eales came away overall champion. She will now compete in the

British final in Stoke on Saturday, May 10.

The schools' success continued when Nottage Primary and their team – consisting of Ayla Farnworth, Honey May Morgan, Olivia Williams, Talita Jones, Ellie Evans and Libby Roach – took the title of Welsh acrobatic champions, followed by Porthcawl Comprehensive and their team consisting of Nia Eales, Asia Farnworth, Stephanie Chilcott, Paige Eales, Skylar Evans and Bethan Golding also taking the title of Welsh acrobatic champions.

All of these are now travelling to Stoke.

The last competition saw Porthcawl Comprehensive's Nia Eales, Asia Farnworth, Stephanie Chilcott, Paige Sheen and Skylar Evans win again, coming away Welsh school floor and vault champions.

Only one school is selected from Wales to move onto the British finals from these competitions and it is quite an achievement for a local town to have such a huge representation at this competition, with 12 local girls competing in four British finals.

The Porthcawl Comprehensive students have been very lucky to receive sponsorship from Ed Ellis of Mercedes Benz and the children and parents are grateful for his help.

They all enjoyed a fun filled photo shoot at their Pencoed showroom.

Big win for the Mules

KENFIG Hill had most of the possession for the first 10 minutes but the Builth defence managed to keep them out, until they gave away a penalty which outside half Lloyd Giles put over.

Scrum half Tom Briggs made a break from a scrum in the Mules' half, split the Builth defence and passed to full back Mike Kennedy to finish off with a try, Giles converting.

Some slick passing saw left winger Ben Clarke score, Giles converting.

The Kenfig backs were totally dominant and another dazzling move saw Kennedy score his second try, with Giles making no mistake with the conversion. Builth did not fold and came back with a late try to finish the first half off through back row forward Jeff Evans-Turner.

Builth changed their tactics for the second

half, playing a forward-oriented game in an effort to keep the ball away from the rampaging Kenfig Hill backs, and this led to their second try through second row Lucas Evans under the posts.

This spurred the Mules into action and right winger Aaron Grabham burst through to score, Giles adding the conversion. Not to be outdone, his fellow winger powered his way over minutes later with Giles again accurate with the conversion.

Builth never gave up and were rewarded with a try by centre Gethin Davies, with outside half Rob Lloyd converting.

Kenfig Hill finished off with a final flourish with centre Marc Fitzgerald powering his way over, with Giles putting over the conversion to finish the afternoon with a hundred percent kicking record.

Final score: Kenfig Hill 45 Builth Wells 17. **GO**

Derby delight for Llantwit Major... NOW FOR THE BOWL FINAL!

UNDER the watchful eyes of Richard Hibbard, Alun Wyn Jones and Ryan Jones, Llantwit Major RFC headed to Cowbridge for the derby to try and emulate last year's double over the visitors.

The Welsh internationals and WRU cameras were there running a feature on Cowbridge and not the SWALEC Bowl finalists, but it seemed that Cowbridge suffered from stage fright as Llantwit posted a win.

In typical derby fashion, the collisions were colossal and no one budged an inch in a titanic struggle. The game was played at such a pace that you wouldn't think that both clubs are in the bottom half of the table.

It was Llantwit who struck first with a penalty from Rob Grapes. It wasn't long before the Llantwit pack, as in previous games, started getting parity up front and then ascendancy, which allowed a platform to launch a number of attacks that were thwarted by a resolute defence.

But with patience, a chink appeared in the defence, allowing Andrew McNichol to dart over for a try that was converted by Rob Grapes.

Further scores by Rob Grapes and a brace of penalties from Cowbridge, left the halftime score: Cowbridge 6 Llantwit Major 13.

It was Llantwit who settled first in the second half and took a penalty to extend the lead. This was cut shortly after by a third Cowbridge penalty.

Try as they might, Llantwit could not find a way through the defence

and the only score they were able to muster was another penalty for Rob Grapes.

Following the addition of their coach to the playing action, Cowbridge appeared to be galvanized into a different side and the young back line began running the ball from everywhere and this allowed them to cross for an unconverted try to take the score to 14-19 in Llantwit's favour.

A further penalty took Llantwit clear but Cowbridge were not done yet and further forays into the Llantwit half again allowed them to crash over for an unconverted try.

The nerves on Llantwit's supporters now started to jangle as Cowbridge retained the ball from the kick off and patiently drove upfield and became camped in the Llantwit 22. However, the Llantwit players once again showed character and nerves of steel to keep Cowbridge out until the final whistle blew, to the sheer delight of players, coaches and supporters.

ABERCWMBOI 15 LLANTWIT 10
For their third game in eight days, Llantwit Major made the long journey to high-flying Abercwmboi with the aim of continuing the momentum.

In a game that was played in seasonal April showers it was a case of the team showing character in places but not being consistent for 80 minutes.

As with a number of games this season, if the consistency had been there then the league table may look a little different.

Abercwmboi had obviously been prepared well under the watchful eye of Welsh international Ian Evans, who to be fair is giving something back to the

club that started him off – very much like our own Simon Hill.

This was a game where no quarter was asked and no quarter was given. From the touchline you could hear and feel the hits that were going in from both sides.

It was nervy at times from Llantwit, but last ditch defence kept out Abercwmboi on several occasions. Halfway through the first half, Llantwit lost the services of hooker Lewis Collins who was replaced by Rhys Davies, making his first appearance since badly dislocating his shoulder against Glyncoch in the SWALEC Bowl game back in January.

The pace of the game never let up and it was Abercwmboi who managed to score first through a try that had come from a number of phases.

Llantwit were disappointed with the score as it had come as a result of a number of missed tackles. The converted try was the only score of the first half, meaning the teams turned round with Abercwmboi 7, Llantwit Major 0.

There was no let up in the rain nor the massive collisions on the field. This was good to see from Llantwit as it meant that everyone had listened to the pre-match team talk which categorically stated that no one was a definite name on the team sheet for a week Sunday and that there will be surprises if people perform outstandingly.

The game did generate a number of penalties that turned it

into a stop start affair and saw yellow cards being dished out for both sides.

Abercwmboi extended their lead with a penalty before some exciting running from Llantwit Major's backline, and good work by the forwards set up a platform that allowed Josh Austin to dance over the line for a try that was converted by Rob Grapes.

The Llantwit side then started to believe that a result was achievable and further infringements by Abercwmboi allowed Rob Grapes to level the scores at 10-10.

Try as they might, neither side could breach the defence of the other side and it appeared that the game would end up as a draw, which would have been a fair result given the effort.

But unfortunately, through perhaps a momentary lapse in concentration, Abercwmboi managed to get up field and score a try that was unconverted.

This was the final score of the game and Llantwit were disappointed to have let the game slip, but if anything this will have removed any complacency within the squad as momentum builds for this Sunday, May 4, but before the Bowl final, Llantwit will have hosted Tonyrefail on Tuesday.

NE

Who wants to build what, and where?

Mr James Marshall – Peter Alan Ltd, 22 Dunraven Place, Bridgend – One internally illuminated fascia sign and one non-illuminated projecting sign.

BCBC Property (Education) – 96 Ty Gwyn Drive, Brackla, Bridgend – Cut back branches overhanging garden and reduce height by 30 per cent.

Mr EP Wooster – 26 Birch Walk, Porthcawl, Bridgend – Single storey extension to side and include land into curtilage of dwelling.

Gravells Ltd – unit (off Harman Becker) David Street, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend – Change of use of industrial w/ship to car sales showroom and vehicle maintenance garage and alterations to front elevation.

Mr PV Rossini – 5 South Road, Porthcawl – Convert disused shop to domestic dwelling with alterations to roof to include additional floor.

Mr Stephen Davies – 99 Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend – Two-storey detached dwelling with off-road parking (outline application).

Miss A Watkins – 7 Cerddi Ty Bryn, Pencoed – Detached garage, new footpath and galvanised railings.

Mr David Bailey – 68 Coychurch Road, Bridgend – Single storey rear extension, extend existing garage forward and convert roof space to bedroom.

Mrs Louise Halliday-Jones – 14 Heol Eglwys, Pen-y-fai, Bridgend – Proposed three storey rear extension.

Mr and Mrs Tony John – Pen-y-Bryn, Heol Llan, Coity, Bridgend – Single storey extension and alterations for disabled person.

Mr Allan Ladlow – 13 Merlin Close, Porthcawl, Bridgend – Single storey extension to rear elevation.

Paul Sherriff – 17 Cornelius Close, South Cothel, Bridgend – First floor extension above existing garage/kitchen.

Principality Building Society – Peter Alan Ltd, 22 Dunraven Place, Bridgend – New shop front.

Mr Makhan – Garn Inn, Alma Road, Maesteg, Bridgend – New shop front.

Mr Peter Joshua – 15 Maesteg Road, Tondy, Bridgend – Single storey rear granny annexe to provide additional bedroom accommodation with dining room extension.

HD UK Ltd – 3, 5 and 7 14 Elder Street, Bridgend – Proposed refurbishment, extension and change of use to retail (A1) and restaurant/cafe bar (A3).

Mr Jonathan David – Lavender House (adj Cartref NI) Waterton Lane, Bridgend – Proposed pitched roof

dormer to rear elevation. Mrs A Cray – 15A Esplanade Avenue, Porthcawl – Dormer to rear of roof on first floor maisonette.

Mr Mark Lazarus – 28 Wind Street, Laleston – Rear single storey extension dormer extension and alterations.

BCBC Parks – 3 Pascoe Avenue, Bridgend – Cut back large overhanging limbs, remove dead wood in crowns and reduce height by 3m of three oak trees.

Mrs Denise Smith – 23 and 24 Greenmeadow, Cefn Cribbwr – Crown reduction and removal of leaning stems and maintenance to old cut marks to one oak, one ash and two sycamore trees.

Mrs Rita Collins – 4 Angellon Green, Pen-y-fai – Crown reduction of oak tree.

Miss Rhian Davies – 26 Iron Way, Tondy, Bridgend – Convert integral garage to habitable room.

Bryncethin Rugby Club Ltd – Former Bryncethin Claypits, Blackmill Road, Bryncethin, Bridgend – Three rugby fields.

Ms Susan Jones – The Breakers, 17 West Drive, Porthcawl, – Change of use of ground floor to tea rooms (A3) and retain residential use to first floor.

Mr R Collins – 10 Glenwood Close, Coychurch, Bridgend – Proposed two storey side extension.

Mr S Johal – Dyfri House, 56 Pyle Road, Pyle, Bridgend – Change of use from shop (A1) to takeaway retail outlet (A3).

Mr R Thompson – 8 Bryn Dryslwyn, Broadlands, Bridgend – Single storey extension to right side of dwelling.

Mr Russell Lock – Fairview, 16 Rogers Lane, Laleston, Bridgend – Change of use from 19th century coachman's dwelling to a one-bed annexed dwelling to Fairview.

Mr C Jones-Jenkins – Areithin, Heol Ton, Ton Kenfig, Bridgend – Replace garage roof with pitch roof and roller door with window/door panel and extend roof over disused stone base.

Mr Eric Shears – 4 Meadow Rise, Bryncethin, Bridgend – Proposed conservatory extension to rear.

Dr Howard Davies – Craig-afon, Island Farm Road, Bridgend – Erection of pitched roof garden room.

Mrs A Stuckey – Bryn Seion Chapel, Coychurch Road, Pencoed, Bridgend – Convert semi-derelict chapel into three bedroom dwelling – re-sub of P/13/650/FUL.

Mr and Mrs Chapman – 16 Bryn Rhedyn, Pencoed, Bridgend – Single storey extension to rear and side and raised patio area to rear.

Bowlers in friendly action

COWBRIDGE men bowlers played their second friendly match, away against Bridgend Municipal, and achieved a hard-fought draw, 62-62.

The best win was on skip Alan Wallace's rink with Ron Frayling, Phil Woosman and Guy Morton, and they won 16-8.

The rink with Bryan Hole, Mick Davey, Brian Williams and skip Norman Wilkinson won 17-15 after winning two much-needed shots on

the last end.

Captain Steve Dickens' rink, with John Collin, Ron Woolford and Rob Lewis, also needed two shots on the last end. They scored them to win 17-16.

The only losing score was on skip Dennis Snelling's rink, with Gerwyn Watkins, Len Taylor and Clive Prichard.

They lost 12-23, but by picking up seven shots on the last three ends, they helped the match end in a draw.

The ladies' friendly match at Pencoed was cancelled due to rain. **NJW**

Evan's winning form at Lydstep

LLANHARAN'S Evan David made every post a winning one on Brian Llewellyn's Wiston Dreamer in the hunt members' race at the Tivyside & Carmarthenshire at Lydstep last Sunday.

A 6-1 chance, Wiston Dreamer, who had failed to complete the course in

his previous four outings, won easily from the odds-on favourite In The West.

Ogmore's Nick Williams, who earlier this season clocked up his 150th winner between-the-flags, riding the Amber Griffiths trained second string Shanks A Lot did well to win the open maiden race, as his mount made several mistakes.

BRIAN LEE

PENCOED RFC RUGBY ROUND-UP

Friendly win for Pencoed first XV

PENCOED fielded a squad composed of first and second team players, supplemented with eight senior youth players for this friendly match with Bancroft Rugby Football Club at the Recreation Ground.

The Essex division 3 club competed well for long periods of this match, the final scoreline not reflecting their effort. Bancroft were captained on the day by former Pencoed youth player Hywel Price, who bagged a brace of tries to his obvious delight.

The home side opened the scoring within two minutes, captain Gary Monies touching down following a close up scrumage drive; outside half Adam Williams converted.

Pencoed increased their lead somewhat fortuitously. With Bancroft looking almost certain to score on the overlap, home wing Gareth Dyer gambled on the interception and raced away from 75 metres to score; Williams converted.

The tourists then opened their account with an incisive run from dangerous centre Chris Grant who put under half Adam Capone over. Pencoed then got their third try, the threequarter line handling well for centre Jamie Pensom to put right wing Aaron



Former Pencoed player Hywel Price draws the attentions of his former teammates!
ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK

Songhurst over with a well-timed pass; Williams added a fine conversion from the touchline.

Match official Tony Williams was then bundled to the deck unceremoniously, accidentally flattened by a posse of forwards before instantly getting back to his feet to resume authority!

The burly Price then drove over for his first try, with pleasure written all over his face as he got the touchdown against his old club.

Pencoed hit back immediately however, Williams, Songhurst and Dyer handling before supporting prop forward Sam Grant crashed over and the home side led 26-10 at the interval.

Price got his second try in the opening moments of the second half capitalising on a

home defensive error before Pencoed replacement Rhys Bargery dummied his way over and his side led 31-15.

The visitors were now beginning to feel the tour exertions and Pencoed increased their lead when Williams found Lloyd Ryland with a long pass, the centre exposing the stretched defence before Pensom put left wing Leighton Williams in from 30 metres; Williams converted.

A Pensom break then put co-centre Ryland over for Williams to add the extras.

To the crowd's amusement, Price came back on trying to get into a backs jersey which he eventually rolled down to waistline level!

Pensom then ran in the final try for Williams to convert and this thoroughly entertaining



Leighton Williams touches down for Pencoed.

match ended 52-15 to the Pencoed combination.

On Saturday Pencoed travel to Resolven for their final Division 3 South West match of the season when a supporters coach will be available.

TR

PONTYCLUN FALCONS FLY HIGH OVER THE PHOENIX

TWO tries and conversion gave Pontyclun Falcons a 12-0 lead in this cup game against Pencoed Phoenix.

A scrum for Phoenix led to a good break from Emma Meredith-Hughes. More good defence on Phoenix 22 kept Pontyclun out; Sam Trickey cleared well and that was the theme of the day. Kathryn Stonehouse and Charlie Mundy kept the pressure on Pontyclun.

After a high tackle from Kathryn Stonehouse, a penalty then led to another score to bring it to 19-0. Pontyclun's left wing then scored a great solo try under the posts to make it 26-0.

Again, Pontyclun pressure resulted in another try under the posts, the score 33-0 at half-time.

Pontyclun continued with the pressure driving into Phoenix half; Phoenix turned over the ball, and a kick ahead of them led to another try down the left wing, 45-0.

Sam Trickey tackled well, forcing Pontyclun's number 8 to hang onto the ball, giving away a penalty to Phoenix.

From this, captain Lowrie Reeves drove over the line to make the score 45-5.

Pontyclun scored a great try from under their posts passing along their backs for their winger to score a 70 yard try under the posts, and another try in the 60th minute came from the Pontyclun winger cutting through



Lowrie Reeves crosses for the Phoenix.

the defence of Phoenix.

Phoenix had the last say of game with Amie Stevens linking up with Charlie Mundy who fought off the tackles to power over try line, Emma Meredith-Hughes kicking the conversion for a final score of 59-12.

Acting coach for day, Paul Morgan, said: "It was a solid defensive display but with some missed tackles and dropped balls, Phoenix were under pressure. When we upped our game and applied the pressure to Pontyclun, they started to make mistakes and errors in game."

There was a good return for long-term injury victim Hannah Seward, who showed how dangerous she is in play. Lady of match, voted by Pontyclun, was Charlie Mundy; Phoenix now move onto the Plate cup.

All welcome to join this team; contact the club on 01656 860152 or visit the Pencoed Phoenix Facebook.

JH



Charlie Mundy touches down.



Sam Trickey makes an important tackle.

PENCOED'S UNDER-12s ENTERTAIN IRISH TEAM

THE homeboys hosted a touring team and played a Saturday fixture over the Easter weekend.

Holidays and family time weighed heavily on selection with only 12 boys available.

Irish team means Irish rules, 12-a-side, three quarter pitch and no pushing in scrums.

Birr travelled with plenty of voice and they all pitched in to encourage their boys. As an indication of traditions, it was noticeable that few of the Irish lads turned out wearing head protection.

The boys turning out were Sam, Matt, Joe W, Cory, Curtis, Jacob, Lewis, Luke H, Drew, Jay, Tyler and Max.

Matt jinked around the slightly disorganised Irish defenders to open the scores (5-0).

Ball flowed well between Cory, Curtis, Matt, Joe, Jacob, and Tyler, while Sam enjoyed discouraging the Irish

attacks when they chose to attack on his wing.

It was a fast and furious game, and forwards Drew, Max, Jay, Luke and Lewis committed well at the ruck areas and the tight areas to front up to the feisty Birr boys.

Matt scored a second (10-0).

It looked like a walk-over, but Birr awoke with a quick tap to put down their own gauntlet (10-5).

A penalty was the start of another score, this time the Pencoed backline reacting quickly to move the ball into space to find Matt for a hat trick (15-5).

The Pencoed boys stole possession and a Cory/Matt combo saw Matt put his tally to four tries within 15 minutes (20-5).

A scrum to Birr and with only five forwards in the set play, it proved difficult to cover the blindside; smart passing and commitment saw Birr cross on the tight side (20-10).

Each phase seemed to



Pencoed on the attack.

result in a score for one side, Birr opting to work in the tight and combining phases amongst the forwards, and were eventually rewarded for their hard work (35-30).

The second half was an end-to-end affair.

It was a nail-biting encounter played in great spirit, the home boys

copied well with the physicality that the Irish brought.

A messy phase closed the match, the ball swapping between each side until Curtis gathered and backed himself to be rewarded with some space to put in a solo

snipe to close the game at 40-30 in favour of Pencoed.

Young Phoenix's narrow win

PENCOED faced their toughest test of the season in an away fixture against a vastly older and more experienced Nelson team which boasted several Blues regional players.

Despite a highly commendable season, Pencoed started the game as overwhelming underdogs, a position reinforced after a dominant start from the home team.

An early break from the Nelson centre saw her race clear of the Pencoed defence, only to be denied by a fabulous chase and tackle by Phoenix Number 8 and skipper Amy Morgan.

Having developed a reputation this season as a hard tackling back rower, Morgan proved she has the pace to go with her power, a combination vital to the Phoenix team.

The Nelson domination continued, and some poor Pencoed tackling allowed the home team's winger to go 40 yards for the opening score of the afternoon.

From the kick-off however, Pencoed were lifted by a moment of opportunism from ever-alert scrum-half Kayleigh Powell. Indecision in the Nelson ranks saw Powell pounce on the unclaimed restart and dive over for a confidence building try.

Parity was short-lived however,

after good backrow support work saw Nelson score an unconverted try, despite the best efforts of hard working flanker Drew Ludlow.

As a result, Nelson switched their attacking thrust to their forwards, who looked certain to score from a driving maul five yards short of the Phoenix line.

But ultra-aggressive burrowing from scrum-half Powell saw her rip possession from the powerful Nelson pack and sprint 90 yards in the opposite direction, looking certain to score her trademark length of the field score.

She was halted just short of the line by a great tackle from the pacy Nelson winger, but tremendous support play from Phoenix winger Jenna Dyckhoff, especially in view of Powell's history of long-distance tries, allowed Powell to release the ball in the tackle and give Phoenix an unlikely share at half-time.

The second half began with some more Nelson offence, but Phoenix, beginning to get a foothold in the game, became ever more resilient.

Good defensive work from Seren Hart and Shania Brooker kept Nelson at bay until a quick pick up and run from the base of the scrum saw Nelson's quality scrum half go 20 yards under the posts for a converted try and a seven-point lead.

With the power of the Nelson team continuing to dominate,

Pencoed could easily have buckled under some intense pressure, with injuries to Shania Brooker, Amy Morgan, Jade Thomas and the unusually quiet winger Megan Griffiths causing plenty of disruption and panic.

Some desperate defence from second rower Hannah Pound, hocking a clearance from her own dead ball area straight over her own head and out of play was testament to the mounting troubles.

But the stubborn Pencoed mentality kept Nelson at bay and it was they who were next to score.

A quick penalty tap from Powell saw outside half Megan Whittaker sublimely ghost through five would-be Nelson tacklers to take the score to 17-15.

A Phoenix scrum on the Nelson 22 yard line saw Powell collect the ball and dash over for a converted try which incredibly took Pencoed ahead 17-22.

With just 10 minutes to go, and Pencoed hanging on grimly, a thunderous tackle by Phoenix centre Caitlin Jones saw her opposite centre suffer a crushing blow.

With the Nelson player unable to get to her feet, an ambulance was called and the referee sensibly called a halt to proceedings.

Final score: Nelson 17-22 Pencoed Phoenix.

ROB JONES

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Renewable heating for council homes

THE Vale Council has entered into a contract with a local company to install renewable heating at a number of its council homes this spring.

The homes are off the main gas grid and are classed as 'hard to treat' because they are expensive to improve and are extremely costly to heat for the families living in them.

Six homes in the rural Vale will have ground source heat pumps and solar water heating installed as part of the project. Homes in Llandow

and Marcross were chosen due to their suitable locations, the families' enthusiasm for the innovative heating improvements and the current poor heating systems.

Coun Bronwen Brooks said: "I am delighted that we are using innovative technology in our tenants' homes to help them to drive down their heating costs."

"Too many people live in fuel poverty and I am committed to finding ways to tackle this in the Vale."

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Cavatina concert

CAVATINA Singers, Penarth, celebrate 30 years of making music on Saturday, May 17, at 7.30pm in All Saints' Church, Victoria Square, Penarth.

To mark its anniversary, the choir will perform a new, specially commissioned piece for SATB chorus and piano - 'A Life in a Day' by Penarth based composer, Ian Lawson.

The programme will also include John Rutter's 'The Sprig of Thyme', a cycle of folk-song settings as well as pieces by Elgar, Mansel Thomas, Frank Ticheli and Thomas Morely. Tickets, £8, include a complimentary drink and canapés.

Tickets can be bought on the night or from Foxy's Deli, Penarth. Find out more about Cavatina Singers on www.cavatinasingers.org.uk.

Advice surgery

ELUNED PARROTT, AM for South Wales Central, will be holding a surgery on Friday, May 2, at Morrisons Supermarket, Barry, between 1pm and 2pm. No appointment is necessary.

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Public Notices

RHYBUDD O GADARNHAU GORCHYMYN
LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS
ADRAN 119 DEDDF PRIFYRDD 1980
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
(LLWYBR TROED CYHOEDDUS 5
LARNOG)
GORCHYMYN AILGYFEIRIO LLWYBR
CYHOEDDUS 2014



NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION
OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
SECTION 119 HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH
NO.5 LAVERNOCK)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION
ORDER 2014

Ar 15 Ebrill 2014, cadarnhaodd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg y Gorchymyn uchod.
Effaith y Gorchymyn fel y'i cadarnhawyd fydd ailgyfeirio'r llwybr troed cyhoeddus yn y modd a welir yn yr Atodlen ac ar fap y Gorchymyn.

Bydd copïau o'r Gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd a map y Gorchymyn, i'w gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn ystod yr wythnos yn y cyfeiriad isod, rhwng 9:00am a 4:00pm o 1 Mai 2014 hyd 12 Mehefin 2014. Bydd copïau o'r map a'r Gorchymyn ar werth yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.

Daw'r Gorchymyn hwn i rym ar 1 Mai 2014. Serch hynny, os bydd unrhyw un sy'n tybio iddo gael cam, yn dymuno holl ynghylch dilyswydd y Gorchymyn neu unrhyw ddarpariaeth ynddo, am nad yw o fewn pwerau Deddf Prifffyrdd, ynteu na chydymfurfirwyd â gofynion y Ddeddf neu reoliadau a wnaed o dani wrth gadarnhau'r Gorchymyn, caiff yr unigolyn hwnnw wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys o dan baragraff 2 Atodiad 2 o'r Ddeddf drwy weithrediad paragraph 5 Atodlen 6, cyn pen 6 wythnos o 1 Mai 2014.

Dyddiedig 1 Mai 2014

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu,
Swyddfeidd y Dociau, Heol yr Isffordd, Y Barri,
CF63 4RT

On the 15th April 2014 The Vale of Glamorgan Council confirmed the above Order.
The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert part of the public footpath as set out in the Schedule and shown in the Order map.

A copy of the confirmed Order and Order map may be seen at the address below free of charge between 9:00am and 4:00pm on weekdays from 1st May 2014 until 12th June 2014. Copies of the Order and map may be bought here at a price of £4.50.

This Order comes into force on the 1st May 2014, but if any person aggrieved by the Order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he/she may, under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from 1st May 2014 make an application to the High Court.

Dated this 1st May 2014

Director of Development Services
Dock Offices, Subway Road, Barry,
CF63 4RT

RHYBUDD O WNEUD GORCHYMYN
DEDDF PRIFYRDD 1980
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
(LLWYBR TROED CYHOEDDUS
18 Y BARRI)
GORCHYMYN GWYRO LLWYBR
CYHOEDDUS 2014



NOTICE OF MAKING OF AN ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH
NO 18 BARRY)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION
ORDER 2014

Bydd y gorchymyn uchod a wnaethpwyd ar 15 Ebrill 2014, o dan Adran 119 Deddf Prifffyrdd 1980, yn ailgyfeirio rhan o Llwybr Troed Cyhoeddus 18 Y Barri, sy'n rhedeg o GGC 311097 169429 hyd at GGC 311452 169451 drwy ei ailosod ar linell sy'n rhedeg o GGC 311097 169429 hyd at GGC 311452 169451, fel y'i dangosir ar fap y gorchymyn.

Mae copïau o'r gorchymyn a'r map wedi'u gosod, a chewch eu gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Cewch brynu copïau o'r map a'r gorchymyn yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.

Cewch wneud sylwadau ar y Gorchymyn neu'i wrthwynebu drwy anfon llythyr at Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT erbyn 29 Mai 2014, a dylech nodi eich rhesymau dros ymateb.

Os na ddaw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau i law, neu os caiff y rhai a dderbyniwyd eu tynnu'n ôl, bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn rhydd i gadarnhau bod y Gorchymyn yn ddwrthwynebiad. Os caiff y gorchymyn ei anfon at Weinidogion Cymru ar gyfer ei gadarnhau, bydd y sylwadau a'r gwrthwynebiadau nas tynnwyd yn ôl, yn cael eu hanfon ar yr un pryd.

Dyddiedig 1 Mai 2014

The above order, made on the 15th day of April 2014, under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980, will divert part of the Public Footpath No 18 Barry running from NGR 311097 169429 to NGR 311452 169451 to a line running from NGR 311097 169429 to NGR 311452 169451 as shown on the order map.

A copy of the order and the order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at The Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT during normal office hours. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

Any representations about or objections to the order may be sent in writing to the Director of Development Services, Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than the 29th day of May 2014. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Vale of Glamorgan Council may confirm the order as an unopposed order. If the order is sent to the Welsh Ministers for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the order.

Dated this 1st day of May 2014

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Licensing Department,

Vale of Glamorgan

Council, Holton

Road, Barry CF63 4RU,

not later than 28 days

after the date of this

notice. Representations

received after this date

will not be considered. A

copy of the application

can be viewed at the

Civic Offices during

normal office hours.

It is an offence knowingly

or recklessly to make a

false statement in

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Signed: R.E.D. Hopkins

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Family Notices

LLEWELLYN

Mary

Peacefully on Tuesday April 22 at Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend, Mary of Great House Farm, Penlyne, beloved wife of the late Peter, devoted mother of Christine, David and Rob, mother-in-law of Robert, Talina and Tina, loving grandmother of Rhianon, Huw, Rhys, William, Tom and the late Claire, and great grandmother of Oliver and Mali.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Friday May 9, service 1.30pm at Penlyne Church, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium Bridgend at 2.45pm.

No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Ward 2 Stroke Unit, Princess of Wales Hospital c/o J James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhosce, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

Birthdays

JOE BAKER

Happy 14th Birthday
on 5th May

Lots of love from
your biggest fans
Mum, Dad, Abi
& all the family
xxx

HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY • HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY

Megan Osborne

Happy
18th
Birthday Meg
(6th May)

All our love
Mum, Dad & Grace
xxx

HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY • HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY

ABIGAIL MAKER

Happy 1st Birthday!

Abigail 3rd May

Lots of love,
Nanny Lyn,
Gramps and big
brother Jayden
xxxx

Family Notices

NORMAN Don

On Wednesday, 23rd April, Don, dearest husband of Barbara and a treasured father, grandpa, brother and friend.

Resting at Southfields Funeral Home until the service at St John the Baptist Newton Church, Porthcawl on Wednesday, 7th May at 12 noon, followed by interment at Porthcawl Cemetery at 12.45pm. Family flowers only please, by request. For further enquiries contact Evan E Thomas & Sons, Southlands, South Road, Porthcawl, CF36 3DA. Telephone 01656 783383.

DAY

Henry Alfred - 'Harry'

Sadly passed away at Bella Vista Nursing Home on April 26, 2014, aged 88 years. Dear father to Clive, Sheila, Julia and Beverly. Loving grandfather and great grandfather, and dearest friend to Marge.

Harry will be missed by all his family and friends he loved.

Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynwydd Road, Barry, until his funeral service at Barry Cemetery chapel on Friday May 9 at 12pm, followed by interment at 12.30pm in the cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the funeral directors or donations may be made at the service in memory of Harry to the Stroke Association.

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GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA...

Poor response to community cabinet

THE success of the community meetings held by Alun Cairns MP, at the end of last year, demonstrates that many people are interested in local affairs and are eager to attend public meetings.

So it is clear that when this week's Vale Council community cabinet meeting, held in St Athan on Monday at 6pm, attracted no members of the public (except me), something is wrong with how the council engages with the public.

The community cabinet meeting in St Athan was abandoned after 30 minutes, rewarding the cabinet for their failure by allowing them home 90 minutes early – whilst the public picked up the costs

associated with the meeting.

The council generally doesn't advertise these community meetings on its website, on social media, on notice boards or in the local press, with a few exceptions such as last month's meeting in Penarth.

I have attended meetings in Cowbridge and Barry, where just six people turned up to question the cabinet. Interestingly, one of the best attended meetings was in Peterston-Super-Ely at 2pm, when the local community council seized the initiative and promoted the event in their community – and word reached groups in Barry who also attended.

The community cabinet meetings are held, according to the council's website, due to a "vow to make local decision-making more transparent and inclusive." It would seem that the cabinet has failed to achieve its goal.

I knew about the St Athan meeting because I proactively asked the right question of someone who knew about this "secret" community cabinet meeting...

Ian Perry, St Nicholas.

Volunteers and the libraries...

IT is with great dismay that I heard about possible library closures in our area – I hope this is not true.

Also libraries that remain will be run by volunteers. How can this be? I have worked in the library service and had to produce qualifications to secure a post and also attend expensive courses, such as the ECDL, at the behest of management.

The banks had problems due to mismanagement. Is this what has happened to libraries who have had a lot of expensive equipment installed in the last few years?

Will managers be affected at all, or will they remain in post? Their job is to manage, which means to control and administer correctly.

Thousands of pounds have been spent on the Mayor's parlour, and chairs costing hundreds of pounds each for the councillors to sit on seem an inordinate waste, as few members of the public ever see them.

The library is the centre for knowledge and a meeting place socially for the public who, after all, pay rates in large sums for that privilege.

I have grandchildren struggling to achieve qualifications.

Should I tell them not to bother, as volunteers seem to be the solution to money problems – and it may happen next in schools and hospitals?

I accept the lack of black bin bags, but I do not accept the absence of my library as I know it. L Gatt, Barry.

Let councillors take the lead!

THERE is talk that the Vale Council is proposing staff in four libraries in the Vale be reduced and then volunteers are to run these libraries on a reduced basis.

I challenge the council to lead from the front and for four councillors to volunteer their services, with no recompense from the

council.

They must publicly show that over a six-month period they operated as full councillors and drew no money from the council.

In other words, they have volunteered! Do this and prove to the people who elect you that you are prepared to operate as you ask others to do. I await your response.

Charles Ian Allen, Boverton.

Arthritis support

AGE CONNECT Cardiff & Vale are holding a support session at the Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry, where professional advice will be available from Arthritis Care in Wales, on May 6 (from 10am-12noon)

This will include information on support services for those with this condition, and what other help is available, both practical and emotional.

Call 01446 732385 for further information.

More growth in Wales?

IREFER to Jane Hutt's GEM article on April 24 – 'More growth in Wales than rest of UK'.

How can she claim such success with employment after Labour's First Minister was caught using dodgy statistics to back up his claim that youth unemployment in Wales is the lowest of all UK nations?

Especially when the most authoritative data from the International Labour Organisation shows Wales has the highest unemployment in the UK!

This is in spite of the

four billion pounds worth of European funding that has been channelled into the Welsh economy since 2000, specifically to west Wales and the Valleys; and what good has it done, when 15 Welsh authorities still qualify for convergence (EU charity) funding?

And guess what? Labour's about to throw another two billion pounds into yet more job creation schemes.

Meanwhile, we don't even have decent bus services outside of Cardiff.

Gordon Wilkie, Llantwit Major (Conservative).



Sponsor Tosh Taylor with Dan Jarvis, captain Mike King, winner Clive Edwards and Tim Jarvis.

Clive triumphs at golf meeting

The monthly meeting of the Glamorgan Golf Society was held last Thursday, April 24, at Cardiff Golf Club - with 30 competitors all attempting to win the Vale's own version of the famous 'Walker Cup' supplied and sponsored by Cowbridge based solicitors Gaskell & Walker Ltd.

The tree-lined fairways that are a feature at this prestigious club, proved quite a hazard, with many hard-luck stories being shared later in the clubhouse.

Difficult pin positions and wet conditions underfoot also contributed to the low scores being returned with a few members even considering disposing of their clubs via e-bay!

However, credit must be given to Colwinston farmer and Dragon boat racer Clive Edwards who overcame such distractions to return a winning score of 30

stableford points to collect first prize from

generous sponsor Mr Anthony Taylor.

A superior back nine by Dan Jarvis proved crucial enabling him to claim the runner up position from his father Tim both finishing with 29 points. Clive Thomas with 28 points finished fourth.

Overseas visitor Chris Premock, a resident of Sudbury near Boston, USA, and the son-in-law of society member John and Andrea Caines, enjoyed his final day in the UK to return the highest score of the day to win the guest section with 31 points.

Nearest the pin on the 'Llanerch Vineyard and Restaurant' sponsored par 3 holes were Richard Jones, Julian Kelly, Dan Jarvis, Tosh Taylor, Tim Jarvis and Griff Morgan while Martin Edwards collected the 'Bear Hotel, Cowbridge sponsored prize for hitting the longest drive on the selected hole.

Godfrey Lewis correctly guessed 29 balls would fail to make the journey home to collect the Premier Turf sponsored bottle of whiskey resulting in £90 being shared between Velindre Hospital and The Alzheimer's Society

adding to the magnificent sum of £3,000 raised by Tosh Taylor's daughter Catherine who recently competed in the London marathon.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 29, at the Grove Golf Club when members will be playing their annual medal competition for the Shrieval Trophy, sponsored by Mr Mark Rees and family.

A reminder to golfers reading this column that it is not too late to enter the Kelly & Harris charity golf day in aid of Velindre hospital scheduled for Friday, May 16, at the Grove Golf Club. Further details can be obtained from event organiser Mrs Pam Harris on 01446 772057.

Nipper Jewell Knock Out competition 2nd round: Chris Rooney v David Williams; Godfrey Lewis v Keith Davies; Mike King v Mike Lee; Mark Rees v Griff Morgan; Keith James v Neil McLean; Martin David v Geraint Davies; Gareth Perkins v Glyn Watts-Jones; Bryan Owen v Dan Jarvis. Matches to be played by Thursday, May 29.

TMCC

Dutch rugby team highlights June Armed Forces Day

THE Dutch visiting side from s-Hertogenbosch proved emphatic winners over Army Reserve (Wales) in what could become an annual rugby event.

The Dutch side was handicapped by losing no less than 10 players called for duty with their national side, but even so managed an 18-11 victory over the fledgling Army Reserve side.

The game, billed as the opener to the run-up to Armed Forces Day Wales on June 28 was played at Cowbridge between two teams mindful of the significant historic implications of the meeting.

"It is important that we keep the remembrance," said Dutch team organiser Maikel Weyes, who is also a committee member of the Society of October 1944, responsible for the city's commemorations.

"This game was suggested by the Armed Forces Day organisers and of course we had to accept. Hopefully next year, a team will come out to us

from Wales and we will keep the connection going."

In 1944, 70 years ago, the largely Territorial 53rd Welsh Division liberated s-Hertogenbosch with a loss of over 146 lives.

The Dutch city has never forgotten, and each year celebrates its liberation. But 70 years on, the number of veterans still alive has dwindled and reluctantly the city has decided that this year will be the last big commemoration.

In June, the mayor of s-Hertogenbosch will lead an 80-strong band and 100-strong choir, as well as a group of some 22 cyclists, who will cycle from s-Hertogenbosch to Wales carrying with them a Davy lamp that will have been lit from the eternal flame at the local British War Cemetery (where those killed in liberating the city are buried) to take part in Armed Forces Day in Cardiff.

Doug McArthur

Local pioneers are giving an American sport Welsh flavour!



Back row (left to right): Peter Butler; Ben Phillips; Lee McCabe; Jon Creighton-Griffiths; James Hayes; Charlie Hopkin; Martin Swift; Rhys Jones; Marc Longworth; James Malatynski; Oceanne Esparcieux; Oon Robbins. Front row: Cliff Osbourne; Marcus Jenkins; James Clarke; Luke Ashton; Chris Smith; Luke Mainwaring; Meredith (the Teuan man); Sam Clements. Photograph by Pete Florey of MDP Images.

A LLANTWIT MAJOR man is captaining south Wales' only male roller derby team, and says the sport is making great progress now after three hard years getting it off the ground.

In fact, the south Wales men made up a large part of the team when Wales recently competed at the first men's Roller Derby World Cup, held in Birmingham in March. A total of 15 teams competed from all over the world, with skaters coming from the USA, Japan, Canada, Argentina, Australia and all over Europe, with Wales attending as the smallest nation.

Charlie Hopkin, the captain, a local lad from Llantwit Major, has been working to establish a south Wales team (called SWS - the South Wales Silures).

The majority of the squad is local, and they train in Cogan Leisure Centre.

Charlie said: "The boys fought hard for their country to make their mark on the inaugural tournament. They were sixth, narrowly missing out on fifth place to Australia by one point in a nail biting finish."

The GEM asked if getting a quintessentially American sport off the ground in the UK was difficult, and Charlie said: "Most people pull a funny face and ask about the James Caan film *Rollerball* whenever the sport roller derby is mentioned."

"Despite a continued growth in popularity throughout Wales and the rest of the UK, the sport is largely unheard of."

"For those that have experienced it first hand though, it is obvious that roller derby is here to stay."



ABOVE and BELOW: The Welsh team in action. Photographs by John Hesse.

"Its fast-paced and hard-hitting nature draws the attention of most who have attended a game."

He continued: "These days, the sport has developed into a complicated but fun melee of 'blockers' (whos role is self explanatory) and 'jammers' (the less obviously named point scorers) whizzing about a flat oval track competing to score points by passing opponents."

"The jammers are the only players eligible to score, and they do so by passing opposing players, there is one jammer on track for each team during the two-minute 'jams'."

"The remaining four blockers of each team must try and help their jammer through the defence of the opposition's pack, while simultaneously trying to block the opposing Jammer."

He continued: "This addictive, high octane sport has been pioneered in south Wales by a dedicated group of ladies who call themselves the Tiger Bay Brawlers."

"During the early days of their rise to become one of the top seeded competing teams in Europe, the brawlers recruited and trained a handful of guys to help



out refereeing their games.

"After realising how much fun the ladies were having, it wasn't long before there were talks of starting our very own team."

Charlie conceded: "It is a tough job trying to recruit guys for a roller derby team when nobody has heard of the sport; it is primarily played by women."

"It seemed like an impossible task at

times, but after three years (give or take) of perseverance, empty sessions, last minute hall bookings, chalked tracks and lots of sweat, the south Wales derby scene is looking strong."

"Its first men's roller derby team SWS (Welsh for kiss) - The South Wales Silures, now has upwards of 20 regular members, and recently contributed a large portion of the Welsh team who took

part in the inaugural roller derby world cup in Birmingham in March."

All games are archived online at www.MRDWC.com.

For more information, contact the Silures via their Facebook page, or come along for a chat at one of their training sessions at Cogan Leisure Centre every Sunday between 12noon and 2pm.

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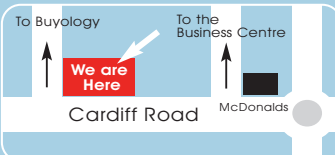
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Joseph ready to face off against 'The Warriors'!

A local Tae Kwon Do champion has been selected for the TAGB (Tae Kwon Do Association of GB) team that will face 'The Warriors' in an exclusive Clash of the Titans event.

The competition will be fast and fierce as the two teams compete against each other in Huddersfield shortly. Current Taekwondo Open World Champion, Joseph Schembri of Vale-based JSTKD Martial Arts and Fitness, was chosen based on his extensive experience and expertise.

He will be joined by fellow Welshmen Carl Betty who is the European Champion, World Lightweight Champion Matthew Jackson and national title holder John Clegg. The TAGB team is handpicked from fighters throughout the whole of Britain so their selection gives Wales a strong

presence within the team of twelve.

The event organisers, Martial Arts Illustrated, the UK's top selling martial arts magazine, chooses their opponents, the 'Warriors'.

These are a select group of martial artists from around the world, covering many disciplines including kickboxing, karate and kung fu.

The TAGB and the Warriors will commence battle this weekend in this no holds barred competition, with the team scoring the most points being victorious. Joseph said: "I am excited to be fighting in this prestigious event especially as there is a history of intense competition between the two teams."

"This year's clash looks set to be no exception to what is always a hard-fought contest".

Anyone wishing to try out this sport should visit jstkd.co.uk for

details of classes throughout Barry and the Vale, with specific programmes available for ages three years through to adults. VW



Joseph Schembri.

Public gets sporting chance!

A TOTAL of 81 local sports clubs and organisations were awarded funding totalling £92,220.89 in the past year – thanks to the Community Chest scheme.

The scheme is a Sports Wales initiative, managed locally by the Vale Council's Sports and Play Development Team.

It offers start-up grants of up to

£1,500 for community sport and activities that encourage more people to be more active, more often, and raise the standard of existing activities.

The 81 awards covered 30 sports and physical activity opportunities including rugby, archery, golf, cricket, sailing, rowing, gymnastics and netball.

The funding was used for areas such as initial venue hire, purchase of equipment, and coaching costs.

If your club or organisation has a proposal for a new project to develop more sports opportunities, contact Karen Davies, the Vale of Glamorgan Council Sports and Play Development Manager on 01446 704793, to discuss your proposal further.

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Brynhill golf latest

Latest Brynhill golf club competition results are as follows: The Barry & District News Cup, four-week eclectic – Winners, Ian Clemo and Glyn Morris, 57 (back nine, 28); runners-up – Julian Hopkins and Richard Pierce, 57 (back nine, 29).

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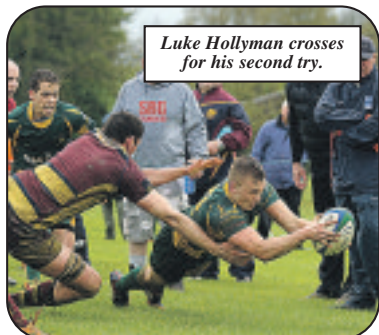


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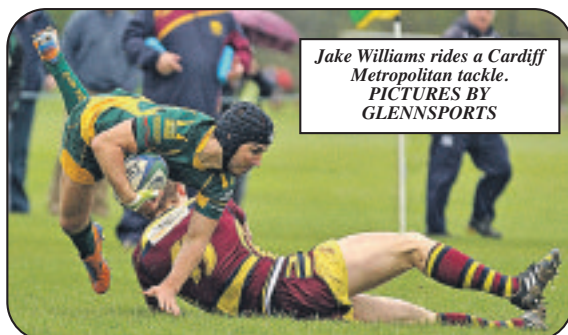
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Athletic return to winning ways with impressive victory



Luke Hollyman crosses for his second try.



Jake Williams rides a Cardiff Metropolitan tackle. PICTURES BY GLENNSPORTS

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC returned to winning ways with an excellent all round performance to defeat third placed Cardiff Metropolitan by 16-3.

They did this playing 50 minutes with only 14 men after prop Rhodri Apsee was incorrectly identified by the referee as the person responsible for an alleged tip tackle at a ruck.

The Athletic started the game with a very high tempo and intensity by the forwards who drove with massive conviction at the students.

The influence of former Cardiff and Bridgend forward Ian Greenslade who joined the coaching staff in December has had a very big impact.

The Athletic front row of Rhodri Apsee hooker Simon Mustoe and man of the match prop Rod Jones completely dominated the set scrums from start to finish.

The opening score came when from a ruck half backs Luke Hollyman and Steven Lewis brought centres Lyndsey MaCausland and Aled Thomas into

play.

Normal scrum half Thomas playing his first game at centre broke on the outside and put youth team scrum half Jake Williams playing on the wing into space. Williams was halted 10 metres from the try line.

From the ruck hooker Mustoe went blind and fed youth team hooker Iestyn Merryman playing at flanker for the senior side over in the corner for his debut first team try.

The pack with strong ball carrying from locks Darren Deguera and Griff Davies and No 8 Dan Apsee and captain Sean Williams kept the Athletic on the front foot.

The pressure told and the students conceded a penalty kicked by outside half Steven Lewis. In a rare attack from the Cardiff side the Athletic were penalised inside their 22 for not rolling away at a ruck. Centre Chris Lewis reduced his side's deficit to 8-3.

Minutes later came the controversial incident at a ruck when the Athletic were accused of a tip tackle.

To the astonishment of prop Apsee the referee called him over and showed him the red card when he was not near the incident.

If the students thought that with a seven man

pack they would have respite in the scrums they were mistaken. Prop Matt Muir came on and normal scrummaging dominance was resumed. Williams playing on the wing into space.

A disappointed flanker Iestyn Merryman, who had been having a good game, had to make way so the Athletic had a full front row compliment. The score remained 8-3 at halftime.

At the start of the second half the Metropolitan students started to turn the screw.

They were awarded a few five metre penalties and attempted to use their numerical advantage in the pack to go for pushover scrums.

However it was the students who went backwards. The Athletic were then reduced to 13 men as lock Griff Davies was sent to the sin bin for 10 minutes for an offence at a ruck.

The students had a number of other five metre scrums.

To maintain a seven to eight man deficit in the scrums, the Athletic put centre

Lyndsey MaCausland into the pack at scrummage time and comfortably held out a much heavier pack with a superior scrummaging technique.

The game was evened up a few minutes later

Rod Jones and Darren Deguera battle their way through Cardiff defenders.



when a yellow card was issued for another technical offence to the Student's lock forward.

The students were now trying to move the ball from all parts of the field. They had a golden opportunity when wing Jake

Henry intercepted on halfway and was clean away before centre Aled Thomas showed a great turn of speed to catch and tackle him five metres short of the line.

He was joined by full back Josh White and they turned over possession and kicked the ball up field to safety.

A good run by Athletic wing Dan Howells took play into the Cardiff 22. The Athletic forwards went through the phases and were awarded a succession of penalties wide out in the 22.

They went for pushover tries but were thwarted by the students either coming up in the scrums or pulling them down.

To the obvious frustration of the Athletic players, coaches and spectators they were not penalised or carded for persistent offending.

However, the Athletic's persistence and patience in going through the phases was finally rewarded when hooker Simon Mustoe peeled off a driving maul

and fed scrum half Luke Hollyman who dived over in the corner for his debut try for the Athletic 1st XV.

It was doubly rewarding as Hollyman is actually a Cardiff Metropolitan student who does not feature in their senior squads.

The Metropolitan were now getting desperate to find a chink in the Athletic's armour - but no matter what they tried there was always an Athletic player on hand to knock them back or Lewis and White driving them back into their 22 with tactical kicking.

The Athletic finished the game on the attack and from broken play Lewis drove the final nail into the student's coffin with a drop goal with the very last kick of the game.

This thoroughly deserved win was just the tonic the Athletic needed, as they have three games in 12 days to complete another successful season in the Championship.

Having faced Newbridge last night (Wednesday), they then play Narberth on May 3 at the South Wales Police Ground - before completing the season with a tasty away derby at Tondur on Thursday, May 8; kick-off is at 7.15pm.

AB

POINTS ARE SHARED BY KENFIG HILL



ABOVE: Gillard break for Kenfig Hill.

PICTURES BY PETER GILLING

KENFIG HILL had all the possession for the first 15 minutes in this game with Carmarthen Athletic, with their speedy backs creating all sorts of problems for the visitors, whose defence was stretched to the limits.

However they were the first to score when right winger Cameron Toland picked the ball up on his own line and raced up the field, almost reaching the Kenfig Hill line before he was finally tackled. The move continued and open side wing forward Lee Taylor finished off the move with a try, outside half David Evans putting the conversion over.

Kenfig Hill continued to have the better of the play and full back Aaron Grabham caught a high ball and left the Athletic defence floundering with his sheer speed; he drew the opposing full back and passed to left winger Ben Clarke who went in close to the posts, outside half Lloyd Giles converted.

Kenfig Hill were denied a certain try under the posts when an Athletic player deliberately knocked the ball on; the offending player received a yellow card and Giles put over the resulting penalty.

This was the final scoring action of the half. In the second half, a dazzling run by Aaron Grabham saw him brought down close to the line; some desperate defensive work kept the Mules out and they



Leyshon (above) and Grabham (below) fend off the attentions of Carmarthen Athletic defenders.



managed to clear the ball up field.

Outside half Lloyd Giles picked the ball up from a scrum in the Kenfig Hill half and made a break, completely wrongfooting the Athletic defence; he was caught on the 25 but chipped the ball ahead and right winger Chris Jenkins raced through to touch down.

The Athletic then scored a penalty through Evans.

The weather changed and it started to rain heavily and with the athletic playing a tight forward Kenfig Hill saw little of the ball but defended well but their defence was penetrated when the Athletic number eight Gareth Bennett picked the ball up from the base of a five yard scrum and forced

his way over.

The rest of the game was a forward slog with the Athletic camped on the Mules line, but the rock-like Kenfig Hill held firm; there was a series of five-yard scrums, in which the Mules forwards easily contained the opposition.

Final score: Kenfig Hill 15, Carmarthen Athletic 15.

For Kenfig Hill Aaron Grabham gave a man of the match performance. The front row of Matthew Davies, Karl Davies and Lewis David played well and number eight Steve Gillard was in the thick of the action all game.

Wings Chris Jenkins and Ben Clarke also stood out.

Kenfig Hill's final game is Lougher away this Saturday. GOS

Bridgend bridge club

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for Wednesday, April 23:

First, Laura Woodruff and Mike gentle bridge sessions for the less Close; second, John Henson and Geoff experienced where assistance is Tinkler; third, Geoff Barnes and Peter Bugden.

The best placed improvers for Friday, April 25: First, John Whateley and Andy Robertshaw; second, Bill Turner and John Raymond; third, John Henson and Terry Dolan.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesdays and Fridays at Noltan Church Hall at 7pm. We try to start play at that time so it helps if people arrive 10 minutes early.

On Thursdays from 2pm to 5pm, also at Noltan Church Hall, there are also at Noltan Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions for the less experienced where assistance is readily available.

The cheese and wine evening in aid of Bridgend Samaritans, has been moved to May 9, to which all bridge players are welcome.

DN